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Israel

Shultz Visit—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz conveyed two main messages in his talks with Israeli leaders 5 June, Jerusalem radio reported. First, Jordan's King Husayn has not withdrawn from the peace initiative; second, there is a "rapprochement" between U.S. and Soviet positions on the nature of the international conference and Palestinian representation in it. However, while Shultz informed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir of the "changes" in the Soviet stance, the latter stressed that "further clarifications" are required on Soviet positions. Sources close to Shamir said the prime minister sees the changes in the Soviet position as "purely semantic," the radio noted. In contrast, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated earlier in an interview with the radio that "people are still underestimating" the shift in Soviet Middle East policy.

As for Shultz' talks with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the latter told Jerusalem radio that they discussed the situation in the territories and Lebanon, as well as human rights. The Americans expressed "reservations" about Israeli actions in the territories, he said, but Shultz expressed understanding for the need to use "appropriate means" to ensure law and order. IDF radio noted that Shultz and the Israelis also discussed the case of Mubarak 'Awwad, whose appeal against deportation was rejected by the High Court of Justice 5 June. Shim'on Peres reportedly explained to Shultz that it will be impossible to change the court ruling on 'Awwad's deportation. A Justice Ministry statement published by the GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE noted that the court upheld the expulsion order on the grounds that 'Awwad's residency permit lapsed because he lived outside Israel for over 7 years, during which time he acquired U.S. citizenship.

Territories—An Arab youth was killed by an IDF officer in a village near Ramallah the evening of 3 June, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that the officer opened fire to disperse stonethrowers. Responsibility for the killing of an Arab youth and wounding of six others in the Hebron hills earlier the same day was claimed by the Kakh Movement, MA'ARIV disclosed. A Kakh member told the paper that 11 Kakh militants had attacked the Arab village of Al-Shuyukh in retaliation for the murder of a Yeshiva student in Jerusalem last week. Police are investigating the incident, Jerusalem television noted.

Palestinians observed a general strike in the territories to protest the Shultz visit, Jerusalem radio reported.

Arab Comment on Shultz

While criticizing Secretary of State Shultz' attempt to "balance" Israeli and Arab positions as "historically inaccurate and morally unfair," the JORDAN TIMES added that Shultz has nevertheless stated some "new and interesting things" this week. The paper urged Shultz to progress from supporting Palestinian "legitimate rights" to coming out in favor of Palestinian national rights. It noted that Palestinian leaders saw no fundamental change in the U.S. approach, despite the conciliatory tone of Shultz' remarks.

Damascus radio, which reported Shultz' arrival in Syria 6 June, had earlier criticized Shultz for coming back to the region with "his usual ideas," which will receive responses that "may not differ" from before. The Soviet-U.S. summit had concluded with "major differences" between the two superpowers on Middle East issues, the radio asserted.

A JANA commentary viewed the inclusion of Syria in Shultz' itinerary as a "plot to cover his visit to his agents," adding that Syria will nevertheless not be fooled by the U.S. "snares, conspiracies, and plots."

Libya

Motivated by "rancor, hegemony, and racism," the United States has issued a new "threat" against Libya, the JANA political affairs editor commented 4 June in response to U.S. charges that Libya is responsible for a resurgence of terrorist activity against U.S. and other Western targets. The official U.S. statements accusing Libya are proof that the Reagan administration has "officially adopted the policy of state terrorism and the use of threatening language in international dealings," the editor asserted. Among the reasons for such "hysteria" against Libya are the U.S. Administration's "alarm" over recent steps to increase freedom in Libya, its "obvious discomfort" over steps toward Maghreb unity, and its desire to "thwart" Libyan pan-Arab and pan-African moves. Libya will not be intimidated by "childish imperialist conduct," the editor declared.

In remarks to the UAE paper AL-KHALIJ cited by KUNA 4 June, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi refuted reports that Libya "hosted" the terrorists who carried out the "dirty" hijacking of a Kuwaiti plane to Algiers in April. On the subject of the Arab summit, Al-Qadhdhafi revealed that "surprises" in the area of Maghreb unity could take place in Algiers. He declared that Libya will reject the discussion of any issues other than the Palestinian uprising, and he noted, without elaboration, that his country's stance on the question of Egyptian participation remains unchanged.

Regarding domestic issues, the Libya leader disclosed that charges have been brought against "most" of the leaders of the revolutionary and people's committees, adding that he was "personally responsible" for various

recent actions such as the approach to Chad and the demolition of the prisons, WAKH reported. The General People's Congress did not participate in those "revolutionary" decisions, he said.

Lebanon

Amal Militia Disbandment—The Amal Movement is unilaterally dissolving its militias in the southern suburb and will only retain political offices in the area, Amal leader Nabih Birri announced at a 3 June press conference reported by Beirut radio. He urged Amal militiamen to join Amal's "regular army" in the Al-Biqa' area and Beirut, calling on all armed men to head for the south to fight Israel. Hizballah criticized Birri's press conference as a violation of agreements to stop the media campaign, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

Al-Jumayyil Plan—Sources from the presidential palace cited by the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD stated that President Amin al-Jumayyil will submit a five-point plan for solving the Lebanese crisis to the Arab summit in Algiers, Beirut radio reported. The plan reportedly includes a proposal to deploy the Lebanese Army throughout East Beirut.

Inter-Palestinian Conflict—Voice of Lebanon radio reported renewed clashes between Fatah dissidents and loyalists in the Burj al-Barajinah refugee camp the night of 4 June, citing information that two people were killed and nine wounded. Similar clashes erupted in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp the previous day, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. The chief of operations in the Fatah "uprising" accused the PLO leadership in Tunis of ordering its men in Beirut to rekindle the fighting to coincide with the Algiers summit, the Voice of Lebanon noted.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Developments—The Iraqi Armed Forces will retaliate for a 3 June Iranian air attack on the residence of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's family in Al-'Awjah village, Salah al-Din Governorate, the Iraqi military command warned in a communique carried by Baghdad radio. An Iranian F-4 dropped bombs near the residence, missing the target, and was forced to flee by air defenses, the communique said, adding that nobody was hurt. The Iraqi leadership decided not to strike back immediately, but retaliation is "imminent" and will feature Iraq's missile and air power, the communique indicated. Another communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio likewise warned that Iraq reserves the right to respond in a "crushing and comprehensive" manner.

An Iranian communique stated that Iranian aircraft bombed "military-industrial" targets near Tikrit 3 June, according to IRNA, but a WIH spokesman denied that the Iranian planes targeted Al-'Awjah.

Iraqi communiques carried by Baghdad radio subsequently announced Iraqi air strikes on a large maritime target east of Khark Island 4 June, and on the Taleh Zang railway bridge, northeast of Dezful, the following day.

Iranian Military Reorganization—In an interview carried by Tehran radio 4 June, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, newly appointed acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, asserted that in addition to benefiting Iranian soldiers morally and materially, planned changes in the administration of Iran's military forces will demonstrate to the enemy Iran's serious commitment to the war. Properly implemented, Imam Khomeyni's decree will bring about a "great change" in the war, Hashemi-Rafsanjani asserted. He explained that consultations are under way to set up a "compreshensive" general command headquarters which will coordinate the activities of the various branches of the military. "Top-priority" tasks include devising ways to streamline supply and logistics in order to make the services more efficient and release personnel to serve at the front. Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that while there are no plans to abolish the IRGC, it is necessary to regularize the salary and rank structure of that "revolutionary" military branch.

Consultations on Arab Summit

Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, who delivered a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i, IRNA reported 5 June, adding that discussions were held on issues of mutual interest, including the oil market, the Iran-Iraq war, and the Arab summit. Prior to his departure for Libya, Besharati warned that if the Arab summit does not focus on ways to support the Palestinian uprising and considers "distractive issues" such as the Gulf war, it will be a failure. Describing the United States as the "arch enemy," Besharati urged that the summit beware of U.S. "plots" to "thwart the Palestiniar. uprising and humiliate Arabs and Muslims alike." He also suggested that the summit should consider withdrawing Arab money from Western banking institutions as a "punishment" for backing Israel.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn informed the Jordanian, Kuwaiti, Saudi, and YAR heads of state that he will not attend the Algiers summit because the war situation requires his "presence in the confrontation theater," Baghdad radio reported. Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, will head the Iraqi delegation. Omani Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id plans to send his "special representative" to the summit, Muscat radio noted.

GCC Meeting

The GGC foreign ministers council meeting in Jeddah reiterated its "firm stances" on the need to find a peaceful solution to the Iran-Iraq war and planned to intensify GCC efforts toward the implementation of UN

Resolution 598, according to a "press release" carried by SPA 5 June. After expressing its admiration for the "steadfastness" of the Palestinian uprising, the council hoped that an emergency Arab summit, which is scheduled to convene in Algiers 7 June for the purpose of examining the uprising issue, will "achieve a comprehensive Arab reconciliation" and "successfully tackle" all pan-Arab issues, especially those regarding security.

Maghreb Affairs

Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Libyan Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, who delivered a message from Col al-Qadhdhafi, JANA reported 3 June, adding that their 2-hour talks centered on Maghreb affairs. In remarks cited by Tunis radio, Al-Humaydi expressed Libya's "total satisfaction with the unionist atmosphere" in the region.

President Ben Ali also held talks with his Mauritanian counterpart, Maaouiya Ould Sid'ahmad Taya. A press statement carried by Tunis radio 4 June reported that the two heads of state shared a "complete identity of views," and they decided that their countries will guarantee the free movement of people and goods by adopting a Maghreb identity card to be prepared by a regional technical committee.

During his 3-day state visit to Tunisia, President Taya received Libyan Maj al-Humaydi who praised Mauritania's "positive role" in promoting Maghreb unity, JANA reported.

According to a Moroccan press report cited by KUNA 4 June, Polisario Secretary General Mohamed Abdelaziz recently told Col al-Qadhdhafi and President Ben Ali that, in view of the movement toward regional unity, the Polisario is prepared "to renounce the military option."

Pursuant to a joint decision to resume diplomatic relations, the Algerian-Morroco border was officially reopened 5 June, APS announced, adding that this act is another step in consolidating bilateral and regional relations.

Syria-India

President Hafiz al-Asad and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi held several rounds of talks over the weekend, Damascus radio reported. In predeparture remarks reported by the radio 6 June, Gandhi noted that Indian and Syrian viewpoints are "identical on the overall issues discussed," and he stressed that the two countries will work to promote bilateral cooperation.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Abroad—President Najibullah was received by CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev 4 June in Moscow for talks that were held in a "warm, frank, and friendly atmosphere," BAKHTAR and TASS reported, noting that two leaders discussed the Afghan situation and ways to "open an intra-Afghan dialogue." Gorbachev also briefed Najibullah on the outcome of the U.S.-USSR summit and the prospects for further improvements in the international situation. The Afghan president stopped in Tashkent and Moscow en route to New York where he plans to address the UN General Assembly, Kabul radio reported.

Relations with Pakistan—Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil praised Gorbachev's remarks regarding [illegible] talks with President Reagan on the Afghan situation and hoped that the U.S. President "has fully realized" the extent of Soviet and Afghan concern over Pakistan violations of the Geneva agreements, TASS reported 3 June. According to Kabul radio, Afghanistan has submitted 14 memoranda regarding such violations. Meanwhile, BAKHTAR reported 5 June that the Pakistani charge in Kabul was summoned to receive the Foreign Ministry's rejection of "baseless" allegations that Afghan artillery shelled localities in Bajuar Agency and Chaman 16 and 29 May.

Vice Presidents Appointed—According to Kabul radio, the Meli Shura approved a 3 June presidential decree appointing four vice presidents: 'Abdurrahim Hatif, formerly a member of the defunct Revolutionary Council Presidium; Defense Minister Muhammad Rafi'; Deputy Prime Minister 'Abdulhamid Mohtat; and 'Abdul Wahid Sorabi, minister of higher and vocational education.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat on Arab Summit, Shultz Visit

JN0306204588 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1910 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, by radio correspondent Antoine Nawfal in Tunis carried within the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow" — live]

[Text] [Nawfal] On the passage of 40 days since the death of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], what does the commemoration of this occasion mean to you, Abu 'Ammar? Does this mean the Palestinian leaders will continue to remain in Tunis, for example, to renew confidence in Tunisia?

['Arafat] First, no one can separate us from the Tunisian people and leadership despite the ongoing attempts. Second, the commemoration means that nothing can shake or terrify the Palestinian leadership. As you know, all of these are continuous Israeli and American attempts against the Palestinian people and leadership. This anniversary will remain immortal in the hearts of Palestinian leaders, children, women, and men. The Palestinian people are waging this uprising, revolting, and continuing this mammoth revolution against the Zionist occupation until this occupation ends, God willing.

Regardless of the sacrifices and the cost, the greatness of this revolution, Antoine, lies in the fact that the cadres and leaders walk together on the side of the strugglers, fedayeen, revolutionaries, children, women, and men. This is the greatness of the Palestinian revolution. We do not tell people to advance. We always tell them: Follow us. Manhood calls on us to extend our bodies as a bridge for our comrades to cross to Jerusalem, God willing, and to enter your temple as they had entered it before, and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. [Koranic verse]

[Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, the emergency Arab summit will be held in Algiers in a few days to discuss the uprising. What is required from the Arabs to support the uprising, particularly since they have often announced that they back it and since they decided on material and moral support for it?

['Arafat] Undoubtedly, such a meeting on this level, the summit level, in wake of the appeal made by Brother President Chadli Benjedid for a meeting of the Arab leaders on the land of the 1.5 million martyrs and this splendid response on this level and with this speed — some people might say that the meeting takes place 6 months after the beginning of the uprising and I say the Iraq-Iran war summit took place 7 years after its outbreak and I say this to those who cast doubts — shows our Arab nation's concern and support for the Palestinian people — children, women, and men — who are struggling to raise the Arab banner high despite all coercion, repression, and the 358 martyrs, 680 miscarriages, 9,800 wounded, including 3,470 disabled, as well as 20,000 prisoners in the collective detention camps. The Jews, the West, and imperialism, including Reagan, talk about concentration camps.

Now we see a repetition of all of these crimes against the Palestinian people, children, and women. Therefore, at this particular time the summit means a lot. It means our Arab nation is still in good shape and is supporting the Palestinian people with all of its resources.

I am optimistic about this meeting with regard to financial support which may have been delayed. However, that's not important. What is more important is political support, for the conference to come up with clear political concepts, that important points have begun to take shape through these developments, sacrifices, and the magnificent uprising and the steadfastness in southern Lebanon and in Lebanese camps, and this ingenious revolutionary accumulation. All this has made our cause the number one item among regional issues at the superpower Moscow summit. True, there were points of disagreement on the conference as to whether it should be authoritative or play a referee or mediation role. Another point was the U.S. denial of the Palestinian right to self-determination. Comrade Gorbachev told them that the Palestinian people have as much right to self-determination as the Israelis. No party should enjoy security at the expense of the other.

The Palestinians are entitled to a PLO-led state. The Algiers summit will be held against the backdrop of momentous developments regarding the Palestinian question on an international level. A few days ago, African heads of state took a brotherly, principled stand which manifested itself in the declaration marking the OAU's silver jubilee and the OAU summit resolutions. If anything, this is evidence of the wide support which the Palestinian revolution, the PLO, and the Palestinian people enjoy in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the nonaligned nations, and the Islamic countries, as well as at the United Nations.

Within the span of just 1 month there has been an overwhelming pro-Palestinian sentiment at the United Nations with 148 member nations supporting our rights, the United States and Israel being the only dissenters. It is a manifestation of global support for the Palestinian people who today rallied at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, in Shuyukh, Gaza, and elsewhere following Friday prayers with women and children joining in thousands. Before this there were demonstrations that set off from churches in Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur, Bayt Jala, and other towns. The Palestinian people from all walks of life — children, women, merchants, peasants, engineers, lawyers, workers, doctors, and others — are defying the Israeli enemy. All of these along with thousands of Palestinian wounded and detainees are telling Israel: We are as fast and firm as mountains.

[Nawfal] If I may, Abu 'Ammar, let's return to the subject of the upcoming Arab summit. All of the Palestinian officials whom we have interviewed said that requesting financial support for the uprising is not all that urgent. Does this mean financial assistance for the uprising will not figure prominently or that the issue will be considered from the perspective of the 1978 Baghdad Arab summit resolutions on financial backing for promoting steadfastness? Do you think it should be reconsidered?

['Arafat] I will not bring the matter up for discussion. My brother Arab leaders have told me they will. What really matters to me is to see a clear, political stand in support of Palestinian blood; there can be nothing as precious as blood.

[Nawfal] But the PLO may seek financial assistance as a spokesman for the Palestinian state.

['Arafat] This is nothing new. It has been the practice ever since the Arab summit conferences began and recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This is nothing new, Antoine.

[Nawfal] True, but will the assistance go directly and only to the PLO? Won't some people make money?

['Arafat] We don't mind this at all. If some people think it is possible for them to set up fictional leaderships through direct assistance, they are mistaken. The Palestinian people are the PLO and the PLO is the Palestinian people just as on the verge of independence the Algerian people told De Gaulle and French Colonialism that the NLF was the Algerian people and the Algerian people were the NLF. It is the same story with our people today as they approach independence. When I say we approach independence, it is because we are at the 11th hour and the Palestinian state will be established. I call for more and more patience. It is a matter of time, pure and simple. I would like to tell them that victory is about waiting an extra hour.

[Nawfal] Within this framework, it is said the PLO will ask for the inclusion of two points in the Fes summit plan, which is still the basis of Arab action. These two points are: to affirm the establishment of the Palestinian state, a very clear affirmation, and to invite the PLO to an international conference in an independent delegation.

['Arafat] No, you must remember that the Fes summit was very clear on these two points. The Fes summit plan talks about the national inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the rights of repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state on their national Palestinian territories, with holy Jerusalem as its capital and under the leadership of the PLO. This was in the Fes plan.

[Nawfal] Yes, but there was no reference to an international conference.

['Arafat] We went to the Casablanca summit conference in 1985 and we took a special decision on an international conference. Then came the Amman summit conference and it also referred to an international conference which must be attended by the PLO on an equal footing — in rights and duties — with the other sides. Equal rights. [preceding two words in English]

[Nawfal] Do you think all Arab states may affirm this and accept it unanimously?

['Arafat] I am sure we will unanimously accept this decision.

[Nawfal] What has delayed the consolidation of rapproachement between you and Damascus? Why haven't you visited Amman yet following an invitation to visit?

['Arafat] I have no plans to visit. When the visit is due I will go.

[Nawfal] There is no visit to Damascus, but there is a visit to Amman?

['Arafat] As I have just said to you, when there are suitable conditions I will go.

[Nawfal] Do you think the outcome of the summit will pave the way for the visit to Amman and Damascus?

['Arafat] I hope all Arabs will stand united against the threats facing our Arab nation. Our Arab nation is facing the alternative: to be or not to be. Is there a frank confrontation of this danger that threatens our Arab nation so it can stand in its natural and real position among the nations? To be or not to be, this is the question that we must answer. This is the global strategy [preceding two words in English] or the global strategy which the coming Arab summit must answer. Not only with a general, simple, and normal answer. No, we are standing before a historic challenge; that is, to be or not to be.

[Nawfal] There are some who think that following the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] in Tunis you will demand the right of the presence of the PLO and its leadership in each and every Arab state. Is this true?

['Arafat] First, we are present in many Arab states.

[Nawfal] That is right. Will you demand this from all Arab states?

['Arafat] First, there are no Arab states we have asked for a presence without being warmly invited to have this presence. It is true we have a problem with the brothers in Damascus, but I think the latest visit and the meeting which was held with Brother President al-Asad has transcended these small matters to the strategical data relating to Arab security and pan-Arab aspirations and hopes.

[Nawfal] But will you ask for permission to launch fedayeen operations, for example, from certain Arab states, or is the Algiers summit going to be a political summit that has nothing to do with fedayeen action?

['Arafat] When I fired the first bullet in 1965, I did not wait for anyone nor did I receive permission from anyone. If anyone wants permission to fight, then he will have to wait for a long long time. The RPG children and stones chidlren in southern Lebanon are not waiting for permission from anyone. They are fighting now, side by side with the heroic Lebanese people against the Israeli air raids, naval attacks, shelling, and the continuous campaigns of the hammer strike [preceding two words in English] against them, or in the blessed uprising in our occupied territory. Do you get permission from anyone? He who wants to fight to liberate and regain his homeland does not need permission from anyone.

[Nawfal] In Lebanon, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri announced the dissolution of the Amal militias.

['Arafat] Including those in the south?

[Nawfal] No, with the exception of the south, where they are confronting Israel as he puts it...

['Arafat, interrupting] We will fight Israel with him in the south, God willing.

[Nawfal] And the Syrian forces are in full control of the security situation. Does such a decision give you relief in terms of the security of the camps?

['Arafat] I welcome anything that does not hinder the continuation of my struggle against the Israeli enemy.

[Nawfal] Jordan wanted Egypt to participate in the Algiers summit. Was this also your wish?

['Arafat] There is absolutely no (?question of) Jordanian [word indistinct]. Do not forget that there was a decision made in Baghdad. It should be presented for discussion. It is not a question of whether I wish it or not. I would like to remind you of what took place at the Islamic summit. The summit was asked to raise the Egypt question. A committee was formed, sent to Egypt, presented its view, and returned to the ICO chairman. Consultations were held between the chairman, King Hassan II, and the heads of the Islamic states. They agreed on Egypt's return as recommened by the committee which was chaired by the late President Sekou Toure.

[Nawfal] The Algiers summit is your summit. Will you agree on raising the issue of Egypt's return to the Arab League?

['Arafat] Undoubtedly everyone wants Egypt to take its natural position in Arab ranks.

[Nawfal] Can we imagine an international conference without Egypt? Some regard Egypt's absence as a consecration of the Camp David agreements.

['Arafat] Antoine, Egypt can never be absent from a summit conference. We use the term parties to the conflict in the region. These parties are Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the PLO. This is clear. The form and nature of the Egyptian presence will be agreed on.

[Nawfal] Let us go back to the international situation. The superpowers rarely showed interest in the Middle East problem.

['Arafat] Except this time.

[Nawfal] To a certain extent.

['Arafat] Do not tell me to a certain extent.

[Nawfal] Especially Gorbachev.

['Arafat] This is clear.

[Nawfal] There is a mixture of relief and frustration in Arab ranks.

['Arafat] No my brother, I am relieved. Let everyone hear me. Comrade Gorbchev has fulfilled the promise and the covenant held between us.

[Nawfal] Certain voices are demanding a definitive, clear stand concerning the U.S. plan with the intention of rejecting it. Some want the Arabs to ask the U.S. Administration to continue efforts to solve the region's problem. With which side are you?

['Arafat] Any solution that ignores the Palestinian people and leadership is doomed to failure. Regrettably, the Shultz plan ignores the basic fact and the difficult figure in the Middle East formula; namely, the Palestinian figure. He wants to hide the sun with his hand. As long as Shultz insists on jumping over the basic facts in the Middle East, his plan will fail.

[Nawfal] But after the Moscow summit Shultz' stand may change, otherwise, why should he make another tour?

['Arafat] Let him show us what new things he has following the agreement with the other giant, the USSR. We will listen to him. Naturally, the others will listen to him. Naturally, I will not.

[Nawfal] But I think the others will convey to you what he tells them.

['Arafat] No doubt, no doubt. This is not the first time.

[Nawfal] Not the first time. [laughter]

['Arafat] In addition to being the summit of the uprising, what else do you expect it to achieve? Would you expect it to be the summit of final Arab reconciliation following the resumption of ties between Algeria and Morocco? Would you expect it to be a summit preceding the U.S. election, or the summit of defining a unified Arab position on the uprising and the future of the peace process and the plans connected with it?

['Arafat] This summit is characterized by two points: supporting the Palestinian people and their blessed uprising and forming a new springboard — and you will see — for fundamental Arab relations by which the Arab nation will face challenges.

PLO's Qaddumi on Joint Conference Delegation

JN0306170588 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has stated that the PLO, which insists on its right to representation in any negotiations on the Palestine question, agrees to participate in a joint Arab delegation to facilitate the peace process in the region if the Arabs reach an agreement on this issue and if the international conference convenes in accordance with UN resolutions.

In a statement carried by Dubayy television last night, Abu al-Lutf voiced his pessimism about the possibility of convening an international conference because the Zionist entity adopts an intransigent position and the United States continues its hostile position against the Palestinian people's rights under the Reagan administration. He also stressed that the brave Palestinian revolution in the occupied homeland has imposed itself on the entire world, including the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Moscow. He added that the revolution has put the occupation authorities in a crisis, made the Palestine question a priority, and prompted the world public to support Palestinian national rights.

Qaddumi pointed out that the Palestinian revolution has made large strides toward its goals to end the Zionist occupation and achieve self-determination for the Palestinian people in accordance with the national programs approved by the PNC sessions, especially the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Algeria

USSR's Vorontsov Brings Gorbachev Message

LD0406225788 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] [Passage indistinct] Following this meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and the Soviet ambassador to Algeria, Mr Vorontsov made a statement in which he said:

I have had the honor of handing to Mr Chadli Bendjedid a written message from Mr Gorbachev concerning the Soviet-U.S. summit and the convening of the emergency Arab summit in Algiers after having stressed the importance of this Arab meeting for the Soviet Union in backing the Palestinian uprising and the struggle of the Palestinian people for the recovery of their legitimate rights, foremost being the right to self-determination.

Mr Vorontsov said further: We are following the proceedings of the Arab summit with great interest and we wish success for the proceedings of this conference in supporting the just Palestinian cause. He pointed out that during the Soviet-U.S. summit in Moscow, Mr Gorbachev stressed vehemently the necessity of putting an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab territories. Mr Vorontsov concluded by saying: We are confident that the Palestinian people will be victorious.

Meets Foreign Minister

LD0506145788 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi today received Yuliy Vorontsov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR first deputy foreign minister. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the current international situation and assessed the outcome of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting. In this context the two sides allotted great importance to the Palestinian question and the conflict raging in the Middle East in light of the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories on the eve of the emergency Arab summit in Algeria.

Iran's Besharati Confers With Foreign Minister

LD0306152388 Tehran IRNA in English 1244 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Algiers, June 3 IRNA—Acting Foreign Minister of Iran 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here on an official visit met and conferred with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi Thursday. He expressed hope that progressive Arab nations as well as the Arab summit due to be held here next week will support the Palestinians and their uprising in the occupied lands.

The acting foreign minister, on the Iraqi-imposed war, said that justice should be administered and the initiator of the war should be identified and punished if the war is to end in an just manner.

Algerian Foreign Minister Ibrahimi briefed the Iranian official on the latest developments in North African nations and re-establishment of relations between Morocco and Algeria and said that Algeria's stance towards the question of Western Sahara has not changed and that his country will continue its spiritual and financial assistance to the Sahrawi people.

On the Algier's Arab summit he said that as host to Arab heads of state Algeria has made every effort to include the issue of Palestinian uprising in the summit agenda, noting that Algeria was criticized in the Oman summit recently because it had insisted that the summit should also include the Palestinian issue in its agenda.

He said that his country has been impartial in the Iraq-Iran war since its outbreak, noting that Algeria attaches special importance to the victory of the Islamic Revolution and that it is willing to act as "a bridge between the Islamic Revolution and the Arab world" for pooling all forces against the Zionists.

Besharati is to visit Libya and Syria after his talks with Algerian officials.

Cautions Against U.S. 'Plots'

LD0506201488 Tehran IRNA in English 1836 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Algiers, June 5, IRNA—Iran's acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati left here Saturday for Tripoli after talks with top Algerian officials.

During his stay in Algiers, Besharati presented a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i to his Algerian counterpart Chadli Benjedid. He also conferred with that country's minister of foreign affairs Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and his deputy Smail Hamdani on Tehran-Algiers ties.

Also discussed at his meetings with Algerian officials was the extraordinary Arab summit (to be held here next Tuesday), issues concerning the Iraqi imposed war, the oil market situation as well as other subjects of mutual interest.

Minutes before his departure, the Iranian senior official noting that Algeria is to host the Arab summit advised the coming meet to defend the Palestinian Muslims' legitimate rights.

Adverting to Iran's "good relations" with Algeria and holding of the Arab summit in that country, Besharati said he held talks with President Benjedid and Foreign Minister Ibrahimi on the issues.

On the Islamic Republic's stance towards the Arab meet, he said if the summit turns to such distractive issues as the Iraqi imposed war instead of "supporting the Palestinian Muslims' uprising", it can safely be concluded that the meet has failed. Bringing up of other issues rather than the Palestinian uprising at the Algiers' meet is what Washington is striving for, he added, warning Arabs and Muslims especially the Palestinians, that the U.S. is their arch enemy.

Key decisions should be taken in view of the financial and spiritual aspects of the Palestinian Muslims' uprising, he said adding that the meet should condemn Arab regimes which have open and clandstine relations with the Zionist regime.

"Western countries which back the Zionists should deserve due blame and the summit should contemplate the withdrawal of Arabs' money from the banks of Zionist supporters, as a form of punishment."

Besharati referring to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' shuttles to the Middle East, said the American is trying to impose a dangerous plan forcing other Arab countries to establish relations with the illegal Zionist entity, like the Egyptian regime.

The Algiers meet ought to deplore such plots hatched by Washington which is every-scheming to thwart the Palestinian uprising and humiliate Arabs and Muslims alike, Besharati stressed.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry official referring to the Iraqi imposed war said the Islamic Republic will continue its holy defence till the achievement of its legitimate rights through punishment of the aggressor.

In Tripoli, Besharati will present President Khamene'i's message to the Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi and will later leave for Damascus, where he will meet Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Border With Morocco 'Officially Opened' 5 Jun

LD0506091088 Algiers APS in Arabic 0750 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Tlemcen, 5 Jun (APS)—In accordance with the resolution adopted by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria to resume diplomatic relations, the Moroccan-Algerian border was officially opened precisely at midnight on Sunday 5 June 1988.

This event is an important step toward consolidating the historical and fraternal relations between the two fraternal peoples and toward developing relations between the two countries in an atmosphere of peace, good neighborliness, and mutual cooperation and as a contribution by the leaderships of the two countries to the establishment of the greater Arab Maghreb.

Egypt

Reportage on Secretary Shultz' Shuttle Diplomacy

Arrives for Talks

NC0306184188 Cairo MENA in English 1828 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, June 3 (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived here tonight from London on the first leg of a fourth tour of the region, which will be taking him further to Jordan, Syria and Israel.

The visit comes within the framework of consultation with Egypt on promoting peace efforts in the region.

The timing is important since the visit is coming on the heels of the U.S.-Soviet Moscow summit.

Meets With 'Abd al-Majid

NC0306211588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has welcomed U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, stressing that Egypt generally supports Shultz' efforts to promote the peace process in the Middle East. He also stressed that President Mubarak and the Egyptian Government appreciate the U.S. efforts toward establishing peace in the region. 'Abd al-Majid added that it is necessary to continue working to achieve this goal.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and Shultz held an hour-long session of talks this evening, focusing on developments in the Middle East in light of the efforts being made to promote the peace process.

Meets With Mubarak

NC0406071388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this morning. Secretary Shultz arrived in Cairo yesterday as part of his fourth tour of a number of Middle Eastern countries. Shultz' tour forms a part of the U.S. efforts to find a solution to the Middle East issue.

Departs for Amman

NC0406093988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Cairo for Amman this morning following his talks with President Husni Mubarak. Shultz arrived in Cairo yesterday on the first leg of his fourth tour of the region. His trip will take him to a number of Middle Eastern countries, as part of U.S. efforts to give impetus to the peace process.

Returns to Cairo

NC0406152988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz returned to Cairo from Amman at 1800 today within the framework of his current tour of the Middle East.

Holds Talks With Mubarak

NC0406183088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this evening held talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz at the Presidential Palace. Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi also attended the meeting.

Afterwards, President Mubarak hosted a banquet in honor of the U.S. secretary of state and his accompanying delegation. Also present at the banquet were Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs.

'Abd al-Majid Comments

NC0406210688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—Following the round of talks held this evening between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that this round was a continuation of the session held this morning. He noted that Shultz also held talks with King Husayn of Jordan today, and that his talks with President Mubarak fell within the framework of consultation, exchange of information, and coordination of stands within the context of the ongoing peace efforts.

'Abd al-Majid said that President Mubarak will meet with Secretary of State Shultz again on Tuesday for a third and final round of talks before Shultz departs the region. He pointed out that Shultz will leave for Israel tomorrow, will go to Syria on Monday, and then return to Egypt later that same day to visit Luxor.

'Abd al-Majid stated that Egypt's firm stand on the issue of Palestinian representation is that the PLO name a joint Palestinian delegation to an international conference for peace. He stressed the need for coordination between the PLO and Jordan regarding the current efforts to convene an international conference, adding that Egypt supports and encourages the efforts being made to push the peace process forward.

Asked how the Palestinians should be represented at the international conference for peace, 'Abd al-Majid said that this is to be decided through coordination and consultations among the Arab countries.

'Abd al-Majid described the current dialogue on the peace efforts as extremely important and useful, serving the peace cause. He noted that a tangible development has occurred in the U.S. position, as the United States now accepts the convening of an international conference for peace, something which it had previously refused.

In conclusion, 'Abd al-Majid said that the statement Shultz made on his arrival at Cairo Airport is an important definition of the U.S. perspective on the Middle East issue.

Visits Israel, Returns

NC0506223288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2054 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Cairo from Israel tonight within the framework of his current tour in the Middle East.

Cairo Newspapers Comment on Shultz Visit

NC0406063088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2158 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 3 June (MENA)—In their Saturday editions, Cairo newspapers address the topic of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' fourth shuttle tour of the region. This tour follows close on the heels of the U.S.-Soviet summit, a summit at which more attention was paid to the Middle East problem than was the case at previous summits.

In its comments, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that if Shultz has come to the region searching for a clear answer to the proposals he submitted on his third tour, the climate of detente that prevailed during the Moscow summit should serve him in his efforts to promote peace. This is especially true in light of Gorbachev's recent statements in which he sought to calm any Israeli fears and in which he proved that Moscow is really seeking peace, but not at the expense of any party.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that the positions of the various parties toward the peace efforts have been made very clear to the U.S. secretary of state. He, of course, knows which party needs exhaustive and intensive efforts to persuade it of the usefulness of the U.S. solution, which cannot be accused of ignoring Israel's right to live in peace. This party of course is the Israeli Government, especially Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who still insists on rejecting the idea of an international peace conference.

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses astonishment over Shamir's stand. It says Shamir is counting on suppression and violence to safeguard Israel. This, the paper adds, is despite the lessons of the Palestinian uprising, which has been going on for 7 months and which has placed the Israeli establishment before a war option of a new kind.

AL-AHRAM explains that Israel, as on previous occasions, has paved the way of Shultz' fourth tour with a hostile and slanderous campaign against his initiative. In this respect, the paper refers to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statements that Israel does not recognize Palestinian rights and rejects the idea of an international conference. AL-AHRAM also refers to Israeli "War" Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's even clearer statements stressing that Shultz' tour will not succeed and that Israel's leaders will receive him only out of courtesy in view of the friendship between the two countries.

AL-AHRAM says that Rabin's remarks really mean that the initiative was stillborn or that it was born in Washington, but died of a stroke in Tel Aviv.

The paper adds that anyone who listens to what Shamir and Rabin say before Shultz' arrival or after his departure wonder at the completely contradictory nature of their statements when Shultz is in Israel. However, this time the Israeli leaders have volunteered to explain this contradiction by saying that when Shultz is in Israel, their remarks are a kind of courtesy to him, while when he is not in Israel, they have a right to open fire on his initiative.

Concluding, AL-AHRAM wonders how this saga, which has not yet "come to fruition," will end. It still revolves around a public U.S.-Israeli conflict that has the weakest links with the important Palestinian cause.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Criticizes Shultz Statements

NC0606055288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH criticizes statements made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz before he left for Israel to continue his fourth shuttle tour. In these statements he commented on the continuing uprising, in its 7th month now, saying that the uprising has not led to any practical results, although it has deepened the feeling of tragedy and the seriousness of the situation.

In a commentary appearing in its Monday issue, the paper says that Shultz, despite the obvious contradictions in his statements, will have the opportunity during his visit to Israel to see for himself the flaming uprising and the acts of suppression, violence, and terror being committed by the Israeli occupation authorities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He will also see how the uprising has been able to impose itself on daily life in Israel, how it has compelled Israel to declare a partial mobilization, and how it has inflicted enormous material and economic losses on Israel.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Shultz, more than anyone, knows that the uprising has brought about changes in international positions on the Palestinian issue and in world public opinion, especially U.S. public opinion. This is in addition to the strength of the uprising that he witnessed during his previous visits to Tel Aviv. He will also see this time that the Palestinians in the occupied territories are clinging more tenaciously to the unified command of the uprising and that they are united in a strong general strike.

The paper expresses its hope that a realistic view of the Palestinian people's uprising, which Shultz will witness during this visit, will be a positive factor that will help him to give true advice to the Israeli Government, which has special relations with the United States and the U.S. Administration.

Concluding its commentary, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: We remind Shultz of one of his recent statements: namely, that security comes with peace. This expression has only one meaning for Shultz' proposals: land for peace.

Daily Calls on Arab Summit To Support Uprising

NC0606050688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2102 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR calls on the emergency Arab summit, which will begin in Algiers on Tuesday, to lend its utmost political support to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories so that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz may realize the reality of the new situation in the Middle East region.

In its Monday issue, the paper refers to a statement made by Ambassador Taha al-Farnawani, director of the Palestinian Affairs Department in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, in a recent press interview—that the uprising is the first and foremost line of defense of the Arab states and peoples, and that this Palestinian revolution constitutes a protection of the Arab nation, which must continue to give it support.

AL-AKHBAR says that before the October 1973 war, Israel used to achieve easy and cheap victories. However, since the time of the October war and in the Lebanon war, Israel has begun to understand the meaning of grave defeats and losses. Today, the paper adds, the Israeli wave is receding at the hands of the Palestinian people, who are now primarily relying on themselves.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says that the unified command of the uprising has proven its existence and its influence, and that the Israelis have admitted abject failure in attempting to quell the revolution of the Palestinian people, whom they had thought no longer existed.

Soviet Ambassador Comments on Peace Conference

NC0406140988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—The Soviet ambassador in Cairo, Gennadiy Zhuravlev, said that a senior Soviet envoy will arrive in Cairo to brief Egyptian officials on the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit recently held in Moscow.

Speaking at a press conference held in Cairo today, the Soviet ambassador reviewed the results of this summit, but did not reveal the identity of the Soviet envoy or the date of his arrival in Cairo.

Ambassador Zhuravlev described the recent summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as an important event which marks a new stage of political dialogue between the two superpowers—a move from the stage of confrontation to one of cooperation and pragmatism in assessing world situations and problems. He added that the two superpowers discussed in depth all aspects of the Middle East problem and noted that their views on the ways and means for solving this conflict are getting closer.

The ambassador noted that the entire world recognizes that the international peace conference is the only way to find a solution for this chronic conflict, and that the two sides admitted that bilateral, trilateral, or quadrilateral negotiations could be held within the framework of the international conference. He also noted that the two sides stressed the need to hold this conference on the basis of the implementation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Soviet ambassador said that the only problem remaining concerns the participation of the Palestinian people's representatives. He noted that the Soviet Union has stressed that the Palestinian people have the right to choose their representatives and that the two superpowers have to respect this decision. He further added that the State of Israel is a reality and that its security must be maintained on equal footing with all the countries in the region. He said that the Soviet Union will be ready to discuss the restoration of relations with Israel after the convocation of the international conference. The conditions for holding this conference, he said, are now very suitable.

Ambassador Zhuravlev also spoke about regional problems in the world, and said that the two sides expressed understanding of these problems despite their differences over the causes of these problems and the means of solving them. He noted that the joint communique issued after the Moscow summit stressed that differences in views should not constitute an obstacle to constructive cooperation between the two sides. He added that the two leaders agreed to continue to discuss these problems out of their conviction that they can help the conflicting parties search for solutions. He also noted that eight agreements covering the scientific, communications, cultural, and information fields were signed by the two sides. He also said that it was decided during the summit to resume the negotiations in Paris on Friday to prepare the treaty on reducing offensive strategic weapons by 50 percent.

Cited on Economic Cooperation

JN0406201588 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 3 Jun 88 pp 1, 2

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] The Soviet ambassador in Cairo, Gennadiy Zhuravlev, has stressed that last year the volume of trade between Cairo and Moscow totaled R592 million, which is equivalent to the same amount in pounds sterling. He said it was agreed that this figure be increased by 50 percent in 1990, and that the volume of economic cooperation is expected to reach a billion pounds sterling. He said joint institutions, on the private and public sectors level, are currently being formed to meet the needs of both sides.

In a statement to AL-WAFD, the Soviet ambassador said the fields of cooperation between Cairo and Moscow will include industry, agriculture, irrigation, housing, land reclamation, and electricity, and that the USSR will participate in projects included in the second 5-year plan, particularly the project to establish a line for assembling Soviet-made tractors, which will produce 1,000 tractors by the end of this year. He said the figure will reach 4,000 tractors in 1990, and that tractor parts will gradually be produced in Egypt until full Egyptian production is achieved.

Zhuravlev stressed that talks are currently being held to establish lines in Egypt for assembling the Soviet-made car Niva before the end of the year. He said an agreement was recently signed regarding the establishment of an iron and steel furnace in Hulwan. Work on this project will be completed at the end of the second 5-year plan and Soviet experts will take part in this project along with Egyptian specialists. He added that the USSR has invited experts from the Ministry of Electricity to visit Moscow to acquaint themselves with the Soviet thermoelectrical plants before the USSR's establishment of the 'Ayn Musa power station.

It must be recalled that the visit to Moscow by 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has turned a new leaf in the promotion of Egyptian-Soviet relations, and that this visit is expected to bolster bilateral cooperation and friendship between the two countries.

The ambassador pointed out that the Soviet-Egyptian joint committee, which was formed during Dr 'Abd al-Majid's visit to Moscow, will hold its first meeting this year in Cairo. He said People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al- Mahjub's visit to Moscow will begin on 11 July and will last 6 days.

During 'Abd al-Majid's visit to Moscow, the USSR expressed a desire to resume military cooperation between the two sides. The ambassador pointed out that the issue only needs some time.

Earlier, Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah had invited Dimitriy Yazov, Soviet defense minister, to visit the Egyptian military products show held last February. However, the Soviet minister apologized for personal circumstances and expressed good wishes for joint military cooperation during the coming stage.

The Soviet ambassador stressed that Soviet-Egyptian relations are currently infused with an atmosphere of understanding and friendship, which prevailed in the sixties, and is a cause for Soviet optimism. He said President Mubarak's expected visit to the USSR is still valid, but that no date has thus far been set for the visit.

Israel Said To Seek Soviet Mediation for Talks

PM0306152788 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
31 May 88 p 1

[Mahmud Bakri report: "Peres Seeks Soviet Mediation To Hold Egyptian-Israeli Summit"]

[Text] At his recent meeting with the Soviet ambassador in Washington Zionist Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres asked the Soviet Union to mediate with President Mubarak to hold a summit between him and Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir or with Peres himself in any capital of the Egyptian president's choosing. The objective is to discuss the peace problem in the region. The Soviet ambassador's reply to Peres' request was that he would inform the Soviet leadership of the Israeli request and that he would inform Peres of the reply within the coming weeks.

During that meeting, which was held in complete secrecy in Washington, Peres presented an Israeli plan concerning the Soviet Union's participation in the peace process in the Middle East. It allows for Soviet participation in the next round of international negotiations. It also stipulates that Israel would be willing to let the Soviet Union participate in the bilateral negotiations, in return for Soviet recognition of the Israeli state's borders, rejection of PLO participation in the international conference, and rejection of the repartitioning of Jerusalem. It also stipulates that the Soviet Union should intervene within the framework of the next negotiations in order to put the land-for-peace contacts and talks into practice; and that Israel would agree to the Soviet Union's making special contacts with Jordan and the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

No Agreement Reached in Negotiations With IMF

JN0406193688 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
2 Jun 88 p 1

[By Jamal Shawqi]

[Text] The negotiations that took place over the past few days between Egypt and the IMF have failed to reach an agreement and end the major differences. It was decided to postpone a decision to cancel the freezing of the Paris Club's agreement until new negotiations are held. The negotiations will begin next Monday in Cairo and last for 15 days. They will be attended by 15 senior IMF officials.

Egypt has adhered to 18 months as the period for extension of economic reforms. The IMF mission has made important remarks on limiting the government's spending, the administrative system's expenses, and subsidies for basic commodities.

In the middle of next month, a delegation of four IMF officials will arrive in Cairo. President Mubarak will receive the IMF delegation and inform them of the present economic and social conditions in the country.

Currently, the government is conducting intensive contacts with the United States and friendly Western countries in an attempt to make them exert pressure on the IMF to show more flexibility in the coming negotiations, which will aim at postponing the repayment of $4 billion in debt that is due from Egypt to creditor countries.

Sidqi Briefs Cabinet on 1988-89 Public Budget

NC0606045188 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi said that public expenditures will reach 28.3 billion pounds during the fiscal year 1988-89, which is 5.3 billion pounds more than the corresponding figure for 1987-88. Sidqi's statements were cited by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who said that the prime minister reviewed the new public budget at a cabinet meeting today.

At this meeting, Al-Sharif said, the prime minister also outlined the government's fiscal policies and the development program for the 2d year of the 5-year plan. Dr Sidqi told the cabinet that the fiscal, economic, and investment policies revealed in the budget represent the executive aspect of the social and economic plan.

Dr Sidqi said that the public revenues are expected to reach 21.1 billion pounds, which represents an increase of 16.3 percent over the corresponding 1987-88 figure of 18.1 billion pounds. However, the total deficit, Sidqi told the cabinet, amounts to 7.2 billions pounds, as

compared to the 1987-88 figure of 5 billion pounds. Dr Sidqi then underscored the need for all ministries and institutions to work within the budgets allocated to them. He emphasized that the government is aiming to encourage investment in the country and that international organizations are being asked to participate in domestic development projects.

Dr Sidqi mentioned that subsidies in the new budget total 1,812 million pounds, as compared to the figure for 1987-88, which was 1,650 million pounds. In this connection, the prime minister said that the government is still committed to subsidizing basic consumer needs. He also noted that the government will exert special efforts to sustain and improve the level of services in such areas as education, health, housing, and transport. The government, Sidqi said, will work within the development plan, and budget allocations to supplement the existing infrastructure, boost industrial and agricultural capacity, increase the supply of electricity, and develop the oil industry.

Beirut Paper Says Spy Network Uncovered in Cairo

NC0606082888 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
3 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] Cairo—AL-SAFIR—Reliable Egyptian sources yesterday confirmed that the Egyptian intelligence authorities last Saturday uncovered a new spy network working for the CIA. The network includes 13 persons—8 Egyptians and 5 Americans—who work at the headquarters of the U.S. aid program in Cairo.

The same sources stated that the Egyptian intelligence authorities have been trying to trap the members of the network for approximately 16 months. However, the senior positions held by some of the Egyptians who are involved in giving information to the CIA, as well as the influence of the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, prevented Egyptian intelligence from arresting them for 1 year. In the end, conclusive evidence was found proving that the detainees had been carrying out acts of espionage against military and war industry sectors and obtaining information on Egyptian military capability.

Libya

JANA Editor Cited on U.S. Terrorism Claims

LD0406214088 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1915 GMT
4 Jun 88

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jun (JANA)—The U.S. Administration has yet again, in less than 48 hours since the summit meeting between Gorbachev and Reagan was concluded, overtly resorted to practicing state terrorism against the Libyan Arab people in front of the whole world and in complete disregard for international laws and civilized norms regulating international dealings.

U.S. State Department spokesman Phyllis Oakley was quoted yesterday as saying that the U.S. Administration has what it called irrefutable proof of Libya's involvement in operations carried out against some U.S. interests in the world. JANA's political affairs editor commented on these reports, saying:

At this time, we would like to draw the world's attention—that of world public opinion and international organizations—to the consequences of such official U.S. statements, as they reaffirm that the U.S. Administration has officially adopted the policy of state terrorism and the use of threatening language in international dealings. Furthermore, we have construed this new U.S. threat against the Great Jamahiriyah as the inception of aggression against this secure and peace-loving country; an aggression that has no justification save rancor, hegemony, and racism. Nevertheless, what does concern us here is to stress that the Great Jamahiriyah is not responsible for the results of the American anti-people policy, including the reactions which the people might produce now and then as a consequence of such a policy.

The editor added that the far-reaching dimensions of the new American hysteria against the Libyan Arab people, particulary at this very moment, are very clear and no great effort is required to understand the reasons for it. There are no reasons, however, other than the following:

First, is the alarm at the historic steps that have reaffirmed the triumph of freedom on the soil of the Great Jamahiriyah, a freedom that has been crowned by the human rights document for the jamahiri era, as the U.S. Administration has learned that such a document will expose it before the world.

Second, is the U.S. Administration's obvious discomfort over the unitary atmosphere experienced these days by the western region of the Arab homeland, and the Great Jamahiriyah's role in creating the factors and the effective data for this atmosphere.

Third, is the terrorizing of the Great Jamahiriyah to thwart it from its agitative pan-Arab role, foremost of which is the support of the huge people's revolution in occupied Palestine, and its singular stand in resisting the path of capitulation, foremost of which is the Stable David agreement and its consequences.

Fourth, is the disturbance of the conciliatory atmosphere that cropped up recently on the African level in response to the leader's initiative on Africa Day, which barred the way before excuses for and pretexts of foreign colonialist interventions between African brothers.

The political editor concluded by saying: The Great Al-Fatih Revolution's faith in Arab unity, the necessity of the victory of the Arab nation's nationalist cause, and the absolute faith in the rights of nations and peoples to economic, social, and political liberation, are firm, principled issues that were at the origin of the outbrak of the

Great Al-Fatih Revoluton on 1 September 1969 and that were stressed by the document announcing the advent of people's power on 2 March 1977. They have a civilized orientation that is strong and eternal enough not to submit to any threat or blackmail from whatever source.

Third [as received] is that when we talk about the nature of our human path, we have to remember and remind ourselves of our determined revolutionary spirit, which believes in the daring defense of the values, principles, and legitimate rights of man's life on earth far from the spirit of dominion, and forcing one's opinions on others. In return for that, we believe in democratic dialogue for the settling of issues usually resulting from colonialist conduct and tyrannical, barbaric behavior committed by the evil forces in ur times. We call for the use of a new civilized mind that will save mankind the horror of childish imperialist conduct in our times.

Al-Qadhdhafi Reportedly To Attend Arab Summit

LD0306203788 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1622 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Tripoli, June 3 (TANJUG)—Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has definitely decided to attend the special Arab summit in Algeria on June 7, but under the condition that the conference only discuss joint Arab support to the Palestinian uprising on the occupied territories.

Al-Qadhdhafi is leaving for Algeria even though, as learned by TANJUG from trustworthy sources, the Libyan leadership is troubled by the possibility that the question of Egypt's return to the Arab League—to which Libya is strongly opposed—will be raised.

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH, the organ of the revolutionary committees, today repeats Libya's official stand that in case there is a debate on the Egyptian question, Libya proposes that a delegation of the Zionist enemy be invited to the conference instead of the Palestinian delegation. This is regarded here as Al-Qadhdhafi's warning that he might withdraw from the conference in case the agenda really is expanded to include the Egyptian question.

Libya has initiated the convening of the special Arab meeting which will exclusively deal with support to the Palestinian uprising.

As announced in Tripoli yesterday, a world conference on support to the Palestinian uprising will be held in the Jamahiriyah from June 10-15. Several hundred people and delegations from the world over are expected to attend.

Against Egyptian Participation

JN0406093888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 4 Jun (WAKH)—Libyan President [as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has said that Libya's working paper to the Algeria summit only includes the issue of the uprising in occupied Palestine. He said that his country will reject any other ideas that may be presented to the summit and will consider them directed against the uprising. In an interview with the Al-Shariqah-based AL-KHALIJ published today, Al-Qadhdhafi noted that Libya's stand on Egypt's participation in the Arab summit has not changed. However, he did not give more details. Al-Qadhdhafi did not rule out the occurrence of a surprise at the summit with regard to the issue of the unity of the great Arab Maghreb. He said: This might happen.

The Libyan president strongly denied that Libya received the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner "Al-Jabiriyah." He said: Libya cannot participate in such terrorist acts. He described the "Al-Jabiriyah" operation as dirty. The purpose of those who propagate such rumors is to harm Libya, in accordance with the accusations of the imperialist circles that Libya embraces terrorism, Al-Qadhdhafi said.

The Libyan president said that his initiative on the Iraq-Iran war still exists. He added that this initiative will not stop and could soon achieve a reasonable settlement.

On the clamor raised concerning the possible appearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr, he said that he hopes he will appear so that Libya will be proven innocent.

On domestic affairs in Libya, Al-Qadhdhafi said that the General People's Congress, which consists of the revolutionary and people's committees, did not participate in the recent decisions on the reconciliation with Chad, demolishing the prisons, and other matters. He said most of these leaders were put on trial or will stand trial. He said that he is personally responsible for what has been decided because this is a revolutionary act and because the Libyan people were waiting for such decisions.

Comments on Arab Summit

LD0606134788 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution made a statement to JANA, which states the following:

Some Arab rulers who will attend the Algiers summit carry precise orders from the U.S. State Department which they cannot go beyond or overstep. The only positive point is the possibility of exposing them to the Palestinian people, its uprising, and the Arab nation. This will be proven when these rulers address the summit.

The leader further said that the Egyptian mass media has already exposed these rulers by stressing that they convey proposals for the return of Egypt to the Arab league. Everyone knows that the return of Egypt will be at the expense of the uprising and the Palestinian people, and will confirm the Israeli occupation of Palestine, because Egypt recognizes the enemy and has resumed normal relations with it at the expense of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

The leader said that by doing this they reward Egypt for recognizing our enemy, which is maltreating the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, and because it obstructed the biggest front confronting the Israeli enemy.

Regarding the Gulf war, the brother leader said that this war will only be stopped by Iran. It is the only party which decides the cessation or continuation of the war. Iraq has agreed to end the war. Those who meet at the summit can make no decision on ending the Gulf war. They tried in Amman and failed. He who wants to raise this question again is a ruminant creature.

The brother leader said that the Palestinian people's strike in protest against the visit of the U.S. secretary of state is the answer to the U.S. conspiracy, his so-called initiative. The leader said that the occupied territories belong to us, the Arabs, and occupied Palestine is part of the Arab homeland. This cause is ours, and we are the only ones capable of handling our own problems. The United States should spare us its evil and take care of its own intricate problems.

Secretary Shultz' Mideast Visit Called 'Suspect'

LD0406084988 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jun (JANA)—The JANA Arab affairs editor has commented on the new, suspect tour of U.S. Secretary of State Shultz in the Arab region.

The editor says that this tour, taking place just a few days before the emergency Arab summit in Algeria, is to enable Shultz to come to the region with new orders for U.S. agents to implement at the summit. This U.S. minister wants to embarrass these agents [as received] at a time when the mass popular uprising, led by the generation of anger in occupied Palestine, is escalating.

The inclusion of Syria in the list of countries included in the tour is exposed as a plot to cover his visit to his agents to inform them of his administration's orders. Shultz should admit that Syria is not at the level of these agents. Syria has been and still is a firm fortress standing up to the invading, occupying Zionists and those behind them. Syria will not be fooled by the exposed U.S. snares, conspiracies, and plots.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 4 Jun

LD0506125788 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0801 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Jun, JANA—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati arrived in Tripoli yesterday on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Meets With Major Jallud

LD0506213988 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud today received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and the accompanying delegation on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. The meeting was attended by the Iranian ambassador to the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, a member of the Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, and the director of the Asian Section at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison.

Yasir 'Arafat Leaves After 'Short Visit'

LD0306120688 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, left Tripoli last night [as heard] following a short visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

'Official Source' Welcomes Garang's Talks Call

LD0406080188 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0711 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jun (JANA)—John Garang [Sudanese rebel leader] has proposed holding a conference, without preconditions, to end the war in southern Sudan.

An official source from the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, commenting on this, said that the Great Jamahiriyah welcomes this position and the holding of such a conference, which would help solve the issue through peaceful means and also end the continuing fighting between brothers.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Sudanese Premier's Envoy

LD0406154188 Tripoli JANA in English 1438 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has received Mubarak al-Fadil, the special envoy of the Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Mubarak al-Fadil delivered to the leader of the revolution a letter from Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Communications Protocol Signed With Tunisia

LD0506152988 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Tunis, Al-Sayf [June] 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A protocol of an accord in the field of communications and postal services was signed yesterday between Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia in assertion of the unionist steps taking place within the Arab Maghreb for the erection of a Maghreb without frontiers along the total Arab unity.

The protocol, signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport and the Tunisian Minister of Post and Telecommunications Ibrahim Khouada, stipulates for the consolidation of cooperation in the field of telecommunications and postal services by increasing telephone networks capacity so as to make easy for the telephone exchange and traffic between the countries and the increase in the telephone circuits between the municipality of Al-Niqat al-Khams and the Wilaya of Madnin [place-names as received] and averting the interference in radio and TV broadcasting between the two countries.

The protocol stipulates, also, the intensification of postal services and the exchange and despatch of surface, land, air, and quicpost. [as received]

The two sides agreed to revive the work of the commission of coordination amongst the Arab Maghreb countries for telecommunications and post so as to increase efficiency and services in the region.

Also, technical cooperation and exchange of expertise in this respect was agreed.

Algerian Joint Projects Protocol Signed

LD0606092588 Tripoli JANA in English 0839 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A protocol on the agenda of the follow-up committees for the implementation of the joint projects between Great Al-Jamahiriyah and Algeria within the scope of the unionist steps was concluded yesterday in Tripoli.

It was signed by both the secretary of the People's Committee for Public Utilities and the Algerian minister of heavy industry, Mr. Boudraa.

The two sides have expressed their pleasure on what has already been achieved reaffirming the unionist and fraternal ties among the one Arab people in both countries.

Mr. Boudraa has pointed out the success achieved by the joint companies and projects stressing that they represent a giant step towards realizing the unity of Arab Maghreb wishing that further progress and successes be achieved to bring closer the overall Arab unity.

Mauritania

President Returns From Tunisia via Morocco

LD0506031188 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, has returned from Tunisia, where he paid a state visit to the fraternal Tunisian Republic at the invitation of the Tunisian president, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. [passage omitted]

Gentlemen, my colleague Brahim Khelil now seems to be ready to read out details of the president's recent visit to the fraternal Republic of Tunisia, which ended this evening. He will be reading out the text of the president's statement which he made upon arrival at the airport:

[Khelil] At the invitation of his excellency, my brother and my friend, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the president of sisterly Republic of Tunisia, I paid a friendly and working visit to the Republic of Tunisia from 2 to 4 June 1988. This visit was a happy opportunity which enabled us to examine bilateral issues as well as the means for bolstering the brotherhood, friendship, amity, and concord which have long linked our two countries and our two peoples.

We also reviewed developments in terms of the Maghreb, Arab, Islamic, African, and international scenes. My talks with my brother His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, were an opportunity to exchange points of view on all matters which were discussed. I would like to point out in particular our stress on the need to search for better formulas to expand the cooperation between our two countries and to consolidate the gains attained so far. The Mauritanian-Tunisian Joint Committee will hold a meeting later to examine all aspects of the fruitful cooperation between our two countries.

In conclusion, I can only send my sincere thanks to His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the fraternal Tunisian people for their warm welcome and their good hospitality as well as the the special treatment which was accorded us during our stay in Tunisia.

On my way back I stopped over in Rabat, where I had brotherly, fruitful, and constructive talks with His Majesty King Hassan II, talks which dealt with the distinguished relations between our two countries as well as the Maghreb, Arab, Islamic, African, and international situation. This meeting was an opportunity for me to express anew, as Mauritanians, our satisfaction at the normalization of relations between the two fraternal countries, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Algerian Republic. I would like to take this opportunity to convey my thanks to His Excellency King Hassan II for his warm welcome during our stopover at Rabat. Thank you.

Sudan

Statement on Council of Ministers Session

LD0306222188 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1940 GMT 1 Jun 88

["Statement" by 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, minister of culture and information, on Council of Ministers sessions of 31 May and 1 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all. I wish to present a report on the Council of Ministers extraordinary session No 2, held on 3 May from 1900 to 2230, and extraordinary session No 3 held from 1400 to 1800 this afternoon. The total number of hours spent by the council in these sessions was 7 and 1/2. These sessions were a continuation of the discussion on the four-point program for economic recovery. [passage omitted]

Matters of concern that did not receive sufficient attention in the program include security. The Council of Ministers believes that the program must be amended so that the question of qualifications in the Armed Forces gets more emphasis. The Armed Forces should be qualified in a way that enables them to preserve the country's integrity and (?defense) and to protect citizens' security. These matters were not included in the program. They were the subject of observations and recommendations by the Council of Ministers during the two sessions.

The Council felt that there was a need to include regional development and give it extensive attention, in response to the grievances expressed all over the country. There is backwardness. There is dissatisfaction. Development is concentrated in some regions while others have been neglected. This has given rise to political problems. We are now experiencing some of these in southern Sudan. For this reason, the council's view is that there should be concentrated interest in development in general and also regional development so that every region of the country gets its fair share of development. [passage omitted]

The council also discussed the dangers posed by low water levels in rivers. It is the council's view that greater interest should be taken in dams, nonriverine water resources, and that such resources must be utilized in agriculture and other areas of development.

The council also believes that the livestock sector, which is an enormous asset, has been neglected. The Council of Ministers made various recommendations and proposals for greater concentration on the livestock sector. [passage omitted]

The Council later considered—and this matter has a political dimension — that we have already discovered oil resources. This resource has not yet been put to commercial use either internally or externally. Of course there are protests about this and problems, difficult problems. However, the council has decided that this program should include the evaluation and exploitation of the oil resources already discovered. We must strive through this program to enable Sudan to make use of the oil already discovered. We must strive to expand this sector with all our expertise.

This sector has a political aspect. [words indistinct] Of course, it is not only gasoline, because linked to that is the exploitation of mineral resources. We have enormous quantities of iron, gold, manganese, chrome, and other materials required by the world markets. We have huge and enormous reserves. Efforts should be made through the program to utilize these resources.

The Council of Ministers also considered the need to raise the level of efficiency of some institutions such as the civil service, but especially the Foreign Ministry and even more particularly the information media. The Council considered these matters to be extremely important in today's world. They must be propertly utilized. Their efficiency must be raised. They must be planned and provided with funds to a level which will enable them to discharge their duties in this vital development field. [passage omitted]

The council later considered the need to fix the necessary number of airports to be built. This is to be accompanied by air traffic expansion, and our air transport capacity—in both goods and passengers—must also be expanded. We must concentrate on constructing the airports essential for this purpose. The council also saw the need for amendments to the program for relief aid and refugees. We should be more concerned with development projects such as rehabilitation with regard to relief aid. We used to undertake food relief aid [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Among the very important issues about which the council believed there must be political commitment was that of the policy adopted in the south. The council thought that the [words indistinct] was insufficient, and did not serve the desired goals. For this reason the council recommended that there should be a reconsideration of policy on the south and that the necessary funds would have to be found. Moreover, what was to be done after the return of stability to the south? This would have to be studied and funds must be prepared. [passage omitted with indistinct portions]

The council proposed the introduction of 17 amendments to the program. It charged the ministerial committee to undertake the revision—in light of the observations made—with the assistance of the technical committee. This should not be regarded as a criticism of the committee. It was stressed that the committee that drew up the four-point program is a highly efficient one made up of the best-qualified Sudanese. However, the council was of the view that there were some things they

had overlooked because they had considered them from the purely technical point of view and the council thought they should be reconsidered because of the political dimension.

Tomorrow the council will sit at 0830 to discuss the new budget for the new year. Thank you for listening.

Army, Police Commanders Retired, Replaced

JN0606112788 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Jun (SUNA)—The State Council last night issued a decree retiring a number of Armed Forces and police officers, and promoting and appointing other officers effective today, 6 June 1988. The decree included the retiring of General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, and Gen 'Abd al-'Azim Siddiq, chief of staff of the Armed Forces. Vice Admiral Fathi Ahmad 'Ali was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general and appointed as acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

In the police command, Gen Ibrahim Ahmad 'Abd al-Karim, police commissioner general, and his deputy Lt Gen 'Abd al-Latif 'Ali Ibrahim were retired. Police Major General 'Uthman al-Shafi' Muhammad was promoted to the rank of police leiutenant general and became the police commissioner general. Police Maj Gen 'Abduh Kahin was promoted to the rank of police lieutenant general and became deputy police commissioner general.

Armed Forces 'in Total Control' in South

EA0306122288 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] The Armed Forces are in total control over operational areas in the southern region as a result of active and successful operations in Bahr al-Ghazal, Upper Nile, Equatoria and Southern Kordofan. In western Nuer, our forces were able to capture large quantities of weapons and ammunition after a clash with the outlaws in Ariath, Malwal, (Maded), Dor, (Porgat), (Zikayi), (Dkoth Maded). The outlaws were forced to flee from those areas. Fifty-six were killed and six were imprisoned including staff sergeant (Maikong Gai Machor). Forty Kalashnikov rifles and large quantities of various types of ammunition were captured.

Our forces also carried out a vigorous mopping-up operation in the area around Aweil where they clashed with the enemy and killed seven of them, including a first lieutenant. Our forces in this area captured three Kalashnikov rifles and (?CF) grenades, ammunition, and documents. Our forces in Southern Kordofan are currently forcing the remnants of the outlaws to flee after destroying 13 of their military camps.

Garang, Al-Mahdi Agreement on Food Airlift

EA0406203788 Dakar PANA in English 1445 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Khartoum, 4th June—The Sudanese prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, John Garang, have approved the flying of emergency food supplies to southern Sudan.

According to Mr Pierre Pont, the International Red Cross representative, the flying of food to government-held areas and those where the SPLA operates will start in three weeks.

Severe drought and the on-going civil war have aggravated the famine in southern Sudan where 210 people, mostly women and children starved to death in May in the Aweil [place name as received] area.

Tunisia

3 Detained in Connection with Al-Wazir Killing

JN0606075788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Jun (WAKH)—Press reports said here today that the Tunisian security authorities have recently detained three Tunisian Jews believed to be connected with the assassination of Palestinian struggler Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, in Tunis.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD cited well-informed sources as saying that intensive interrogations are underway with these persons amid strict secrecy to clarify their role in the assassination.

Statement on Visit of Mauritanian President

LD0506022888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Following the state visit paid to our country by the Mauritanian president, Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, a press statement was released which said in particular:

This visit comes within the framework of bolstering the excellent relations between the two fraternal countries and strengthening the tradition of contacts and consultations to expand the scope of common efforts to meet the challenges and achieve the aspirations of the peoples of the Greater Arab Maghreb with prosperity and steadfastness.

His Excellency President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya again congratulated his brother His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the modern constitutional transfer of power in Tunisia, which was received by the Tunisian people with enthusiasm and backing. His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali expressed his appreciation of the wise policy pursued by His Excellency President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

The two presidents reviewed the positive development of bilateral relations and expressed their deep satisfaction at the mutual trust, honest determination and complete calm that pervade them. The talks also dealt with finding adequate means to expand fruitful cooperation between the two countries. The two presidents stressed the necessity of searching for more ways of establishing and further developing the common achievements in various fields, and for the forthcoming meeting of the greater Tunisian-Mauritanian Joint Committee to be an opportunity to push this cooperation to higher levels. It was agreed that this meeting will be held in Tunis in the first half of July.

In the field of information, the two countries have decided to open a direct line between the two national news agencies and to exchange television and radio programs, to train information specialists cadres, and to produce joint television and radio programs.

The two presidents had talks dealing with regional, Arab, Islamic, and African issues, in addition to discussing the current international situation; and they have indicated complete identity of views on these issues.

Concerning the development of the situation in the Arab Maghreb, the two presidents expressed their deep satisfaction at the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two sister states, Algeria and Morocco, and considered it a blessed step realizing the mutual will to clear the air in the region and to remove all obstacles which obstruct the march towards the desired objective. They also expressed their conviction that the prevailing atmosphere in the Arab Maghreb is bound to encourage Maghreb countries to pool their efforts to open up new prospects for cooperation and to heighten moves for integrated and comprehensive development, in response to the popular aspiration for building an Arab Maghreb without borders. In this respect, the two countries have decided to adopt an identity card to be prepared by a Maghrebian technical committee to facilitate travel between the two countries and to ensure freedom of movement of domestically produced goods and commodities from both countries without restriction.

Presidents Ben Ali and Ould Taya stressed their determination to continue working for solidarity and unified ranks, to enable Arab and Islamic nations to face the various challenges, and to support the oppressed peoples until they regain their independence and freedom.

The two presidents stressed the need to exert every effort to ensure the success of the emergency Arab summit conference in a way that will achieve a unity of stands, will remove serious obstacles, and will respond to the Arab nation's aspirations for liberation, steadfastness, and progress.

The two presidents again admiringly hailed the brave resistance of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories and strongly denounced the inhuman and abominable means of oppression practiced by the Israeli occupation forces against the unarmed Palestinian population. They consider it urgently necessary to back this historic uprising with every means possible; and they address an urgent appeal to the international community to work collectively and seriously to put an end to the oppressive Israeli policy and enable the Palestinian people, under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative the Palestinian Liberation Organization, to regain their usurped national rights and set up an independent state on their soil. They stress the need to intensify efforts to convene an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with PLO participation on an equal footing with the other parties.

Concerning the Gulf War, the two presidents expressed serious concern at the continuation of this war and took note of Iraq's positive stand on Security Council Resolution 598. They stressed the need for collective efforts to end this war and find a peaceful and durable settlement to the conflict between Iraq and Iran. The two presidents also renewed their absolute backing for the just struggle of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa for independence and freedom and the elimination of the apartheid regime, and strongly condemned the repeated aggressions of the Pretoria regime against the neighboring African states.

The two presidents expressed keen interest in strengthening Arab-African cooperation and solidarity, and stressed the importance of backing the OAU and the Arab League.

The two presidents studied the international political and economic situation and expressed their hope that the existing dialogue between East and West will positively affect all peoples. They insisted on the need for joint North and South efforts to confront the serious impact of world economic crises on the developing countries, particularly the debt question, and considered it necessary to introduce structual reforms in the international economic order.

His Excellency President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya extended an invitation to his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to pay a state visit to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, who accepted with thanks. The date of the visit will be fixed at later dage.

Correction: Islamic Tendency Opposition

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Islamic Tendency Opposition Leaders Interviewed," subheaded "Abdelfattah Mourou," published in the 1 June Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 15: Column 1, penultimate paragraph, first line: ...interview with Abdellatouf Mourou, exiled secretary general of the Tunisian Islamic Tendency...(changing title from "General" to "secretary general")

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Reportage on GCC Council Session in Jeddah

Begins 4 Jun

LD0406153588 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1505 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Jeddah, 4 Jun (SPA) — The 27th GCC Ministerial Council session opened this afternoon in the conference hall in Jeddah under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and in the presence of GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah.

Saudi Foreign Minister Speaks

LD0406204188 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1505 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Speech by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal on 4 June at the GCC Ministerial Conference in Jeddah]

[Text] [No dateline as received] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. My brothers, their highnesses and excellencies:

I am happy to greet and welcome you at this meeting. This great opportunity is a continuation of our previous good omen meetings, which have affirmed and will always affirm the firm determination of this region's sons to attain the goals and aims for which the GCC has been set up, to examine the attained steps and achievements, and to hold consultations on all matters which might bolster the march and achieve the hopes and aspirations which we have been seeking to reach. One of the reasons for our delight and happiness is the fact that this meeting is being held at a time when the GCC is on the eve of celebrating the eighth anniversary of its long march, God willing, which began at the meeting of the Higher Council in Abu Dhabi, in the fraternal UAE, on 25 May 1981. At that meeting our countries' leaders, thanks to their wisdom and farsightedness, established the first basics of this march in an atmosphere of fraternity and love to epitomize the deep and strong ties between our countries and to meet their sons' desire and aspirations for cooperation, solidarity, and firm support, which are deeply rooted in Arabian Gulf soil.

Esteemed brothers, the previous period has been full of constructive and fruitful endeavor, which is sincerely reflected in the positive facts which the cooperation has achieved, facts which have become a reality, and constructive endeavors which are growing and expanding. Our hopes are, nonetheless, much greater and therefore we have upon our shoulders a fundamental responsibility to exert more effort to attain more integration, security, stability, and prosperity, which all of us long for.

Brothers, our leaders had a meeting some 5 months ago when they gathered during the eighth session of the GCC Supreme Council, which was held in Riyadh on 26 December 1987. Since that date and during the last 5 months since that important meeting, many events have however taken place, and a number of important developments havd occurred with regard to the main issues of the region. At the level of the Palestinian cause, it is nearly 6 months since the eruption of the heroic uprising in the occupied territories. It is clear that the Israeli brutal violence, its terrorist practices, its brutality, and its repression, which contravene the basic elements of human rights and international laws and norms, have only made the uprising more violent and fierce. The logical conclusion is that when it is impossible to maintain things as they are a move is needed to change them.

And if the uprising has [words indistinct], it must at the same time pave the way for a serious move aimed at reaching a just and lasting solution to the Palestine problem. King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and chairman of the GCC Supreme Council, in its current session, has sent messages to the leaders of the permanent members of the Security Council, indicating that these developments require all the concerned parties to reevaluate matters more realistically. The members must realize the dimensions of what is happening in the occupied territories and that the ending of this tragedy in all its dimensions, with all the dangers and threats to peace, security, and stability which it constitutes, shall not occur unless a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestine issue is found.

This must come about within the framework of the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East, which is the best method of achieving that solution. Since then, the GCC has stood by the uprising and backed it by all means, from the premise that the reality of Palestine and its noble Jerusalem shall continue to be at the core of the interests of this council, its cause shall remain our major cause, and support for the Palestinian people and its struggle shall remain a sacred duty. The blood of the martyrs and the sufferings of the victims are dear and shall not be in vain.

Hence, a careful move is required so the uprising by the Palestinian people yields its hopes and aspirations. This is what makes us look forward to the results of the Arab summit conference which is due to convene in Algeria this week. We hope to end up with a united Arab stand vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue in general and an assisting, backing, and supportive stand to the uprising in particular.

Brothers, I will move on to the Iraq-Iran war. The most significant developments during the recent period were the decisive military victories accomplished by the Iraqi Army. Those victories were most effective in deterring and checking the Iranian aggression and curbing its defiance after it started to spread and threaten the entire region. Iran has made repeated attempts to extend its conflict with Iraq to parties not involved in the war by giving itself the right to strike at the interests of states which are not party to the conflict, by threatening the security of other states, and by interfering with international navigation in the Gulf.

We hope all the world's peaceloving states will continue their efforts toward the implementation of Resolution 598 to bring about a swift and final end to this destructive war. We also hope Iran will respond to the call of reason and peace after realizing it is impossible to achieve its aims and after the failure of the scenario of hatred and conspiracy regarding security and stability of the region and that it will be how it was before. An atmosphere of security and stability will prevail, the wheel of development will roll on, and the peoples of the region will achieve progress and prosperity.

Brothers, cooperation between the GCC and the EEC has also witnessed important developments during this period. Concerning the negotiations with the EEC, the agreement on cooperation between the two, which is presented to the current session of the ministerial council for consideration before signing it, gives cause for satisfaction.

Brothers, I do not want to speak to you at length as our agenda is full of important issues on political, economic, and cultural levels. I can only conclude this speech by beseeching God to maintain the blessing of fraternity and cooperation upon us and to continue providing us with his good fruit to realize our hopes for the good of our giving Gulf and of our glorious Arab Islamic nation. God's peace, blessings, and mercy upon you.

First Meeting Ends

LD0406221088 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2119 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Jeddah, 4 Jun (SPA) — The GCC foreign ministers this evening ended their first meeting, which falls within the framework of the 27th GCC ministerial meeting, currently under way in Jeddah.

Following the meeting, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah pointed out that the meeting heard the GCC secretary general's report and reviewed the resolutions of the eighth GCC Supreme Council session which was held in Riyadh on 26 December 1987 and its political, military, and economic accomplishments. His excellency the secretary general added that matters revolving around preparations for an emergency Arab summit due to be held in Algiers this coming Tuesday, in addition to preparations for the ninth session of the GCC Supreme Council, due to be held in Bahrain, were examined during this meeting. He added that topics dealing with terrorism and the Iraq-Iran war were also discussed during this meeting.

His excellency said at the end of his statement that the GCC member states have an identical view toward terrorism and that there are contacts between the GCC member states in this matter.

Press Release Issued

LD0506131988 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1138 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Jeddah, 5 Jun, SPA — GCC foreign ministers this afternoon ended the proceedings of the 27th GCC Ministerial Council meeting at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah, under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister and the conference chairman.

At the beginning of the final session, the GCC secretary general read the final press release issued by the session. Here now follows its full text:

The GCC Ministerial Council held its 27th session in Jeddah between 20-21 Shawal 1408 AH, corresponding to 5 June 1988 AD, under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and chairman of the current GCC session.

The Council discussed the issues on the agenda, the most important of which are the current situation in the Gulf region, the development of the Iraqi-Iranian war, and the contacts made with regard to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598. The Council expressed its gratitude for the efforts made by the chairman.

The Council emphasized the need to implement the UN Security Council resolution, which came to express the community's determination to find a peaceful and honorable end to this destructive war. The Council reiterated its determination to work strongly toward the implementation of the resolution. In this connection, the Council will increase its contacts, intensify its efforts, and take all necessary steps to secure the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution. The Council has adopted steps which it hopes will contribute toward easing the tension and will lead to the implementation of the resolution.

The Council examined the developments in the Iraq-Iran war and the latest events which have accompanied them; the Council reiterated firm stances on the need to find a peaceful solution to the war which would safeguard the two sides' legitimate rights. The Council opposes the expansion of the war's sphere and in this respect, it feels proud that the Iraqi Army was successful in retrieving the occupied Arab territory of Al-Faw and Shalamcheh. The Council hopes, furthermore, that such developments would help alleviate the tension and lead to more response from international efforts aimed at achieving peace. The Council hopes, moreover, that such developments would convince the Iranian Government to respond seriously to international efforts, so that peace, security, and stability may prevail over the region, which would serve everybody's interest.

The Council examined the current Arab situation and the developments of the Palestinian Arab people's uprising; it recalls their majesties and their highnesses' resolutions at the 8th GCC Summit Conference, which was held in Riyadh, aimed at providing political and economic support to the uprising so that the latter could attain its aims. The Council is proud of the heroic resistance which is steadfastly standing against the Israeli practices of brutality and repression, a steadfastness which is the best proof of the Palestinian people's rejection of the policy of occupation and their commitment to their national and inalienable rights.

The Council welcomes, furthermore, the steps taken to convene an emergency Arab summit to examine the uprising issue as well as other Arab issues and hopes the emergency Arab summit, due to be held in Algiers, will successfully tackle all issues of concern to the Arab nation, including those threatening its security. The Council hopes, furthermore, that it will achieve a comprehensive Arab reconciliation which will remove differences and create a comprehensive and constructive cooperation which would put the Arab supreme interests above all other considerations and make the emergency Arab summit achieve that which would serve Arab hopes and aspirations.

Kuwait

Security Case Continues in 'Closed Sessions'

LD0406105588 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1019 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait 4 Jun (KUNA) — The State Security Court in Kuwait has decided to continue the hearing of the case against five Kuwaiti citizens, accused of committing various crimes against state security, in closed sessions.

The court adopted this decision "at the request of the public prosecutor in order to preserve public order and in consideration of the circumstances of the case."

The State Security Court today commenced the hearing of the case in which five persons — one of whom is still at large — are charged with committing crimes, including collusion to assassinate some of the staff of the General Department of State Security, planting explosives to commit crimes, damaging buildings and establishments and killing the workers of these buildings and establishments by using explosives, and using force and violence against officers of Kuwait central prison.

At the end of its session the court decided to continue the hearing in closed session at the request of the public prosecutor to preserve public order and in consideration of the circumstances of the case.

Oman

Sultan's Representative To Attend Algiers Summit

JN0506134388 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] His Highness Thuwayni ibn Shihab, special representative of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, will leave the country for Algeria tomorrow, Monday, 21 Shawal 1408 Hegira, corresponding to 6 June 1988. He will represent His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and will be accompanied by a senior delegation to participate in the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Algiers 7-9 June 1988.

PDRY

Nu'man Sends Message to USSR's Ryzhkov

EA0506050888 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Comrade Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Political Bureau and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, has received a message from his brother, Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the PDRY Council of Ministers. This happened this afternoon when Brother Dr Ahmad 'Abdullah 'Abd al-Ilah, member of the Central Committee and our country's ambassador to the USSR, met Comrade Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who received the letter.

During the meeting, the possibility of increasing areas of economic cooperation to ensure the mutual advantage of the two friendly countries was discussed. The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the development of bilateral relations and the progress of cooperation and coordination and the need to raise them to higher levels.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, who is expected to pay a visit to Aden in the near future.

Interior Minister Comments on Identity Cards

EA0306100488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 1 Jun 88

[Text] Work on implementing the agreement on the movement of citizens with identity cards between the two Yemens will begin 1 July 1988 as part of the agreement signed between the leaderships of the two parts of the homeland during the Yemeni summit meeting held in Sanaa on 4 May this year.

Brother Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, member of the Political Bureau, deputy prime minister, and minister of interior, said this in a telephone conversation with ANA from his residence in Sanaa. He said the movement of citizens between the two Yemens would take place under

new agreed measures contained in the press communique issued after the meeting of the two ministers of the interior. He said a joint post will be established in lieu of present posts, the elimination of which was agreed on when making the operational arrangements.

The brother minister said this would assist in consolidating unity steps and exchange of expertise and meetings of people, which in turn would boost the unifying measures between the two peoples toward Yemeni unity. He said the measures had been agreed on by the interior ministers on the basis of the recent meeting between Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and his brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and that of the two prime ministers.

Saudi Arabia

Reportage on Visit by Austria's Kurt Waldheim

Arrives in Jeddah 4 Jun

LD0406175488 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 4 Jun (SPA) — His Excellency Dr Kurt Waldheim, federal president of the Republic of Austria, arrived here at 1815 on an official visit to the Kingdom at the invitation of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques.

Dr Waldheim was welcomed on arrival at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by the custodian of the two holy places, and His Royal Highness Amir 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard.

His excellency the Austrian president was accorded a state reception at the airport. [passage omitted]

Following a short rest at the Royal Hall, the custodian of the two holy mosques accompanied his distinguished guest to his official residence.

Accompanying his excellency the Austrian president is a delegation comprising His Excellency Dr Alois Mock, vice chancellor and foreign minister; His Excellency Economic and Communications Minister Dr Rudolf Streicher; Austrian Ambassador to the Kingdom Dr Gerfried Buchauer; Director of the President's Office Wolfgang Loible; Dr George Hennings, the president's special adviser for international affairs; and a number of senior officials.

Meets With King Fahd

LD0506145288 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1340 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Jeddah 6 Jun — SPA — The custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, may God protect him, met with this afternoon Dr Kurt Waldheim, president of the Republic of Austria.

The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; Mr Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting planning minister; Mr Faysal al-Hujaylan, health minister; Mr Muhammad 'Ibrahim, minister of state and Cabinet member; 'Ali al-Sha'ir, information minister; and 'Ali al-Nuwwaysar, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to Austria.

It was attended on the Austrian side by Mr Alois Mock, vice chancellor and foreign minister; Dr Rudolf Streicher, minister of transportation and nationalized industries; Mr Gerfried Buchauer, Austria's ambassador to the Kingdom; Mr Wolfgang Loible, director of the President's Office; George Hennings, the president's special advisor for international affairs; and Harald Vavrik, the deputy secretary general of the Austrian Foreign Ministry and minister plenipotentiary.

Leaves 6 Jun

LD0606115588 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1135 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] Jeddah, 6 Jun (SPA) — Kurt Waldheim, president of the Federal Republic of Austria, left Jeddah at 1330 today at the end of an official visit to the Kingdom. The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God protect him, saw him off at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport. His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and commander of the National Guard was also present.

Defense Minister Prince Sultan Leaves Hospital

LD0506212888 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2045 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Jeddah, 5 Jun (SPA) — In a statement issued today, the Royal Court has announced that His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has left the hospital following his full recovery. Following is the text of the statement:

With the safety and care of God, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and national aviation, and inspector general, has left the hospital today following his full recovery, thanks and gratitude be to God. His highness will spend some time resting and convalescing according to the report of the team of doctors supervising the treatment.

May God preserve his highness in good health and perpetual success.

United Arab Emirates

President Departs for Algiers Summit 6 Jun

JN0606100588 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Excerpt] With God's care and protection, UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan left the country at 1130 today for Algeria to participate in the meetings of the extraordinary Arab summit conference, sheduled to begin its proceedings tomorrow in Algiers. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih To Lead Delegation to Algiers Summit

JN0506203788 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] The presidential office has announced that Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, will lead a high-level delegation to participate in the extraordinary Arab summit that will be convened in Algeria 7-9 June.

Consultative Council Elections Set for 5 Jul

JN0506142788 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] The president of the Republic has issued Decree No 2 for 1988 calling on citizens to participate in the general elections of the Consultative Council. The text of the decree follows:

The president of the Republic, after becoming acquainted with the permanent Constitution and the constitutional declaration issued on 6 February 1978 on the formation of the Constituent People's Assembly; after becoming acquainted with the constitutional declaration issued on 17 April 1978 and the constitutional declaration issued on 22 April 1978 enacting a Constituent People's Assembly resolution which defines the form, authority, and duration of the state's presidency; after becoming acquainted with the constitutional declaration issued on 8 May 1979 amending some provisions of the previous constitutional declarations on the People's Assembly and on expanding its authority; and in accordance with both the public interest and Law No 29 for 1980 on elections, has decided:

Article 1: To call on citizens in all electorates to participate in the general elections for the Consultative Council on Tuesday, 21 Dhu Al-Qi'dah 1408 Hegira, corresponding to 5 July 1988.

Article 2: Registration of the requests for nomination to the Consultative Council's membership shall begin as of Sunday, 21 Shawwal 1408 Hegira, corresponding to 5 June 1988. Requests shall be handed in writing to the elections' higher committee at its headquarters in Sanaa in accordance with the text of Article 29 of the elections law.

Article 3: This decree will be enacted as of the date of its issuance and will be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidential Palace in Sanaa on 20 Shawwal 1408 Hegira, corresponding to 4 June 1988.

[Signed] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress

Ramadan Will Lead Delegation to Algiers Summit
JN0506183088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn held telephone contacts with his brothers YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Highness Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah this evening. The president leader exchanged conversations with his brother leaders on the Arab summit conference scheduled to convene in Algiers the day after tomorrow. He wished his brothers and the conference success in the interests of the Arab nation's causes. He expressed to his brothers that were it not for continued Iranian aggression against Iraq he would have participated in the conference. However, such aggression requires his excellency's presence in the confrontation theater.

The president leader also informed his brothers that he asked Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, to lead the Iraqi delegation to the summit conference. He said that the Iraqi delegation is authorized to participate in the summit conference positively and effectively because of Iraq's deep belief in joint Arab action and its firm position supporting and reinforcing that action.

INA has learned that the Iraqi delegation to the summit conference includes Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; RCC member Hasan 'Ali; and a number of senior officials.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,202
JN0306170388 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 3 June 88

[Communique No 3,202 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 3 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Following are our units' activities for last night and today:

1. At 0555 [0155 GMT] today, the regime of aggression and charlatanism in Iran sent one of its F-4 warplanes to attack the residence of the president's family in Al-'Awjah village in the Salah al-Din Governorate. The plane dropped its load on an area close to the residence as our ground defenses confronted it and forced it to flee after it missed its target. None of the members of the leader president's family or any citizens, who are also the president's family, were harmed, God be praised.

The leadership's decision not to carry out a direct retaliation today is a position intended to make the Tehran rulers taste more bitterness of defeat. The Iraqi Armed Forces, including the Al-Husayn and Al-'Abbas Missiles [Forces] the heroic Air Forces, and our other methods of destruction, will retaliate for this attempt. Our Armed Forces will force Iranian rulers to bow to Iraq's strength and violence. The Iranian rulers' pain, cries, and regret will be useless. We will make them taste bitterness and continue to knock on their heads with lethal bombs until they surrender. This will be imminent.

2. At 1535 today, a formation of our helicopters spotted an enemy Bell-214 helicopter in the I Army Corps northern sector. Our helicopters dealt an accurate blow, destroying and shooting it down. The enemy plane was seen falling in flames on enemy units.

3. An enemy group, probably an infantry platoon, approached our units positions in the I Army Corps northern sector. Our brave forces confronted the enemy group using all weapons and completely destroyed it. In other areas in the same sector, the following was achieved: Six enemy personnel were killed; seven different vehicles were burnt and destroyed; one 107 mm tubular launcher, two SPG 9 guns, and three machine guns were destroyed; four ammunition dumps were blown up; one firing position and one observation post were destroyed.

4. In the Special I Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces, three infantry positions were destroyed. In the II Army Corps central sector, one enemy scoundrel was killed.

5. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, two ammunition dumps were blown up and one infantry position was destroyed. In the VII Army Corps sector, two enemy soldiers were killed and one ammunition dump was destroyed.

6. The criminal Iranian enemy shelled the city of Badrah with long-range artillery. As a result, civilian property was damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 June 1988

Communique No 3,203
JN0406170488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1604 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,203 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 4 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces' activities for last night and today were as follows:

1. To cut off the Iranian enemy's oil supplies and prevent it from using their revenues for aggressive purposes, at 1035 [0635 GMT] today the daring planes of our Air Force launched a successful raid against a large maritime

target in the ship holding area east of Khark Island. Having dealt the target an accurate and effective hit, all our planes returned safely to base under God's care and protection.

2. While performing their duties in the northern operations sector, the courageous knights of the helicopter gunships spotted an enemy Bell-214 helicopter gunship. They immediately fired projectiles at the helicopter gunship and downed it. This took place at 1010 today. The helicopter was seen falling in flames with the scoundrels on board.

3. Seven personnel were killed; four positions of various types, one bulldozer, and four vehicles were destroyed; and two amunition dumps were blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector. In addition, two enemy personnel were killed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Five scoundrels were killed, one observation post was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. In addition, one SPG-9 gun, one vehicle carrying one 106-mm gun, three infantry positions, and one machinegun were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VI Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. One infantry position and one Poclain excavator were destroyed and another excavator of the same type was damaged in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. One enemy soldier was killed, one large vehicle was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. The vile Khomeyniites used long-range artillery to shell the city of Badrah and its suburbs today. The enemy shelling injured civilians and damaged their property.

[Signed] the Armed Forces General Command, 4 June 1988

Communique No 3,204

JN0506163588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,204 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continued their activities in the operation theaters last night and today as follows:

1. To reinforce our victory over our enemies and stress Iraq's ability to destroy all means and vital installations of the enemy that are connected with the war effort, our planes launched a destructive raid on the Taleh Zang bridge at 1100 [0700 GMT] today. The bridge was used for military purposes. Our knights scored direct and accurate hits on their targets. Then they returned safely and victorious to their bases, in God's care.

2. Our units killed 13 enemy personnel, destroyed 5 ammunition dumps, and burned 1 vehicle in the I Army Corps northern sector and destroyed 1 antiaircraft machinegun in the Special 1 Army Corps sector—Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. Two heavy machinegun emplacements and one infantry position were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector; two large vehicles, one of them carrying equipment, were burned; and one ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. One enemy soldier was killed, one observation post was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan and one large vehicle was burned in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

5. A number of Iranian soldiers took refuge with our forward units. They were evacuated safely to the rear lines.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 June 1988

Iranian Bell-214 Shot Down

JN0306152588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1516 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)—A formation of Iraqi helicopters downed an Iranian Bell-214 helicopter in the I Army Corps northern sector at 1535 [1135 GMT] today. In a statement to INA here today, an Iraqi military spokesman said the Iranian plane was seen falling in flames on Iranian units after the Iraqi formation dealt it an accurate blow, destroying and shooting it down.

'Maritime Target' Attacked

JN0406105588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1046 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jun (INA)—Iraqi aircraft attacked a large maritime target in the ships assembly area to the east of Khark today and returned safely to base. In a statement to INA, an Iraqi military spokesman said that at 1035 [0635 GMT] today, Iraqi planes dealt an accurate, effective blow to a large maritime target and returned to base. The spokesman said the raid aims at destroying the Iranian enemy's oil supplies and at preventing it from using oil revenues for aggressive purposes.

Helicopter Gunship Downed

JN0406125088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1241 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jun (INA)—At 1010 [0610 GMT] today, Iraqi helicopter gunships downed an Iranian helicopter gunship in the northern operations sector.

In a statement to INA this afternoon, the military spokesman said that the Iranian helicopter gunship was seen falling in flames on Iranian troops.

Helicopter Downing Denied

JN0506092388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0914 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jun (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has rebutted Iranian claims that an Iraqi aircraft was shot down over the Arabian Gulf yesterday. This came in a statement made by the military spokesman to INA at noon today.

Taleh Zang Bridge Raided

JN0506104788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jun (INA)—Iraqi warplanes carried out a destructive raid on the Taleh Zang bridge at 1100 [0700 GMT] today. Iran uses this bridge for military purposes.

An Iraqi military spokesman told INA this afternoon that the Iaqi warplanes scored direct hits against their targets, and safely returned to base.

Iranian Helicopter Destroyed

JN0606091488 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Iraqi military spokesman's statement dated 6 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. One of our brave units in the I Army Corps northern sector spotted an Iranian helicopter attempting to land inside enemy territory at 1245 [0845 GMT] yesterday. Intensive artillery fire was directed at the helicopter. It was destroyed with its scoundrel occupants.

God bless our brave men in the heroic I Army Corps.

[Dated] 6 June 1988

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Rafsanjani Position

JN0306114888 Baghdad INA in English 1105 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, June 3 INA—The Iraqi daily AL-THAWRAH said that Khomeyni's abandoning the position of the Armed Forces commander-in-chief and appointing Rafsanjani instead of him stresses the inability of Khomeyni to carry out any responsibility in Iran and it is a clear attempt to deviate from the decision of war and peace.

The daily said that powers given to Rafsanjani according to the decision will give him the ability to impose full control over the situation and reach the first position in the decision making authority before or after Khomeyni's death.

In an editorial today, AL-THAWRAH newspaper said that Khomeyni is really unable to play any direct role from the position of the Armed Forces commander-in-chief and from any other position. He had to abandon these positions as a real clergyman but his desire to practice authority made him take positions and powers which could not be implemented by him directly.

The daily stressed that Khomeyni tries to hold others responsible for the failure and the difficult dilemma into which Iran fell in military, political and psychological fields after the decisive and great victories achieved by the Iraqi forces in the liberation battles of Al-Faw and Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh].

It added that Khomeyni's decision is not a solution to the Iranian dilemma but the only right solution is comprehensive, just and permanent peace and accepting Resolution No 598 according to the order of its operative articles and to abandon the trend of war, expansion and destruction.

AL-THAWRAH daily added that the powers granted to Rafsanjani are the same powers wanted and sought by Rafsanjani and it is a new game in which Rafsanjani's ally Ahmad Khomeyni participated.

The daily described the message addressed by Khamene'i to Khomeyni concerning that decision as an agreed upon operation and that the base of the decision is "Khomeyni's decision."

AL-THAWRAH daily said that Rafsanjani's new post will ignite the conflict between him and Prime Minister Musavi especially that conflict between them that has been raging for a long time. As for Khamene'i, the daily said, he will play his role in this respect whenever he finds the suitable chance by fanning the fire of the conflict between Rafsanjani and his allies on one side and Musavi and his allies on the other.

AL-THAWRAH newspaper said that Khomeyni's stress on implementing military laws on those who did not join the military service represents a desperate attempt to treat the Iranians refusal to join the Army and the Guards and it reflects the resistance of the Iranian peoples for the war and their rejection for the Khomeyni aggressive and expansionist trend.

High Court Rejects 'Awwad Deportation Appeal

TA0506072288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Mubarak 'Awwad will be deported from Israel. This was decided a few minutes ago by the High Court of Justice as it rejected 'Awwad's appeal against the deportation. Our correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack reports from the court:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] In his capacity as acting interior minister, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will decide on the exact date of the deportation, which will not be before next Sunday. 'Awwad is to continue giving his testimony at the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court in his litigation against the daily MA'ARIV. The next court session is scheduled for 15 June, 3 days after the last possible deportation date.

Prior to the hearing today, 'Awwad told journalists that he had requested a meeting with Secretary of State Shultz through the U.S. Embassy. He said: The government will feel uneasy about deporting me during Shultz' stay. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Justice Ministry Statement

TA0606085888 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 5 Jun 88

["Communicated by the Ministry of Justice spokeswoman"—GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE headline]

[Text] The High Court of Justice today unanimously rejected a plea by Mubarak 'Awad against the Minister of Interior concerning the order expelling him from Israel and the order authorizing his arrest.

The court, headed by Justice A. Baraq, found that the authority of the expulsion order was valid, for reason that Israeli law, judiciary procedure and administration also extend to East Jerusalem. From the time that these came into force in East Jerusalem, so, too, did the Law of Entry into Israel; its regulations concerning duration of stay in Israel by East Jerusalem residents who have not acquired citizenship, are carried out via a residency permit; and all those who were registered in the 1967 population census are viewed as persons who have received permanent residency permits. In so much as the appellant was among those who were registered in 1967, he should be viewed as one who was in possession of a permanent residency permit.

In practice, the court found that the appellant's permanent residency permit had lapsed, after he severed his ties with the State of Israel, for reason that he lived outside of Israel for more than seven years, and in that he requested and received American citizenship. Insomuch as the appellant's permanent residence permit lapsed in Israel, and owing to the fact that the tourist visa—on the basis of which he most recently entered Israel—expired, the appellant is residing here in violation of Israeli law, as of November 1987. His residence in Israel is therefore in violation of the law.

The court examined the considerations cited by the Interior Minister in his decision to serve the appellant an expulsion order. In addition to the appellant's residence in violation of Israeli law, the court found that in the Interior Minister's basic considerations in issuing the expulsion order, there was recognition that the appellant's activities harm security and public order, insomuch as he is acting overtly and intensively against Israel's control in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District. The court was not forced to make a ruling on the factual controversy existing between the various sides. The appellant himself stresses that he is acting against Israel's control in these areas. Due to all these considerations, the court did not find a basis for the appellant's claim that the Interior Ministry's position was illegal, and stressed that whosoever is not an Israeli citizen, is present here in violation of Israeli law, and acts against the interests of the state, should be expelled from Israel.

It is to be noted that Mubarak 'Awad requested that expulsion be delayed by one week. Those representing the state agreed to this. The expulsion therefore will not be carried out prior to 12.6.88.

Leaders Comment on Soviet Stance, Shultz Plan

Shamir Not 'Admirer' of Plan

TA0306200488 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Yig'al Goren on 3 June; place not given—videotaped]

[Text] [Goren] Mr Prime Minister, in the wake of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, do you see any turning point in the Soviet stance regarding the peace process in the Middle East?

[Shamir] Simply stated, what we know now is not enough to determine whether or not there is any change in the Soviet stance regarding Israel. One cannot speak of a turning point, surely, but in the meantime I do not see any outstanding change either. In the coming days, after we hear the U.S. secretary of state, after we hear of his impressions from the summit meetings, or when I visit the United Nations next week, I may hear of changes in the Soviet approach toward our problems. I very much like to hope that this will be favorably changed. At this stage, I do not see any significant change.

[Goren] Is the fact that General Secretary Gorbachev quite directly supports the U.S. peace initiative, and has even given a sort of a blessing of the road to Shultz upon the latter's departure for the Middle East, not tantamount to an innovation?

[Shamir] Well, I do not exactly see this either. He said that there are some positive elements or lines in the Shultz initiative. Since I am also not a great admirer of the Shultz initiative, I do not see this as any glad tidings or consolation.

[Goren] General Secretary Gorbachev says that immediately upon the beginning of the political process; namely, upon the convening of an international conference, the USSR will form full diplomatic relations with Israel. What does this actually mean to you?

[Shamir] Well, this too needs to be well examined. To be precise, he said that upon the convening of a conference the Soviet Union will discuss the establishment of relations with Israel. I think that the USSR should form relations with us without any conditions, without us paying any price for this. We are talking here of the normalizing of relations between two countries. This does not require any policy change on the part of either one of them.

[Goren] If this is so, sir, how do you view Secretary Shultz' visit this coming Sunday following the Moscow summit?

[Shamir] Shultz is arriving here as a followup to his efforts to promote peace in the Middle East. I have often said that I greatly appreciate his efforts, and I would have been pleased had he succeeded in his peace-promoting efforts overall. I do not precisely know what news he is carrying. There may be new ideas, new tones, but at any event we will hear him out with complete earnestness, out of the hope that progress has indeed been made, and will express our opinion.

[Goren] Still, you do not intend to change your position on the international conference issue, do you?

[Shamir] Well, my attitude toward the international conference is not a new thing only recently developed. I believe we can reach peace with the Arab countries through direct negotiations and not through international conferences with the participation of many countries. From this point of view I do not see any reason why I should change my position.

[Goren] In your opinion, is there a chance for a significant change in the peace process before November, before elections in Israel and in the United States?

[Shamir] Naturally, it should be stated that it will be very difficult to reach any serious achievements or basic changes before the elections, but I would not exclude this possibility if something unusual happens.

Peres on 'Change' in Positions

TA0306204388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by political correspondent Yig'al Goren on 3 June; place not given—videotaped]

[Text] [Goren] Mr Peres, what do you see as the main changes taking place at the Reagan-Gorbachev summit from the viewpoint of the Middle East?

[Peres] The world is changing, and so is the Middle East. The two are interconnected and inseparable. I know that there are people who live in yesterday's world, and any change scares them. The world is different. The two superpowers apparently decided to solve problems in ways other than those of the past, using political rather than military means. The Middle East, which is full of military issues, can today find itself enjoying some political relief instead of a more drastic military situation.

[Goren] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said he does not see any innovations in the wake of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit. Do you share this view?

[Peres] No. I do not know whether he has looked hard enough, but there is surely a change in the viewpoint of the Soviet and U.S. positions. As for the Soviet Union, for the first time it does not pose preconditions for settling the conflict. It does not tell us to first establish a Palestinian state, to recognize the PLO or a PLO delegation, to accept a coercive, authoritative conference, and so on and so forth. This does not exist anymore. This is no longer mentioned. They have even given a blessing to the road of the United States. As for the United States, there is no doubt that it has reached the conclusion that if it has a Soviet partner which is prepared to help with the peace issue, such a partnership will exist. Specifically, the two superpowers have changed their positions and there is no doubt that this will have real implications for the entire situation in the Middle East.

[Goren] As for the possible implications, where do you see Soviet-U.S. cooperation regarding the continuation of the process?

[Peres] We are talking of a very significant matter here. Unlike what we have here in the Middle East, the Americans and the Soviets seem to have decided to follow the political path. There are quite a few forces in the Middle East which want to decide matters militarily. There are people here who support a war, terror, clashes, violence—I am talking of the Arab side, of course. Now, these people will have to ask themselves whether they will be able to receive fuel for this path from the Soviet or U.S. sides. If, God forbid, the peace process had been killed in the summit, the other process [toward war] would have begun at once. For me, the fact that the two superpowers decided to maintain the peace process at all costs constitutes a first-rate change which I welcome.

[Goren] This being so, what do you actually expect from the U.S. secretary of state's visit to Israel at the beginning of next week? In light of the summit's results, can one expect any change this time, a change in atmosphere, for example?

[Peres] Yes. I think that the secretary will come and more or less tell us as follows: We did not change our positions, but the Soviets changed theirs. This is a sign that a further change can be achieved. One should not despair. It is necessary to get the Soviets to a point where the opening of negotiations in an international conference will be acceptable to all sides. If this occurs, and we are halfway down the road, in my opinion the sides will have great difficulty saying no. Why not? If this is not a coercive conference, and the Soviets said it is not; if this conference has no preconditions, and there are no preconditions; if it will be followed by negotiations between the parties—I believe it will be extremely difficult for the opponents of the international conference to continue their opposition.

Peres 'Optimistic' About Talks

TA0506054088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by moderator David Grossman on the telephone and by Arye Golan at Peres' residence—live]

[Excerpt] [Grossman] Good morning, Mr Peres. When Secretary Shultz last visited here several months ago, there was some hope that his mission would succeed. Meanwhile, however, the plan has suffered from erosion, and the timetable he presented then is no longer applicable. Furthermore, being a representative of the Reagan administration, Shultz' status has weakened, and it is easier to say no to him. What chances do you foresee for his plan at this moment?

[Peres] When I think about the absence of any chance versus the current situation, then to me, any chance that is still not lost is an important chance. What happened is undeniable. A change has occurred in the relations between the two superpowers. Just as their previous relations had a certain effect on the situation in the Middle East, so another form of relationship will have a different effect. I cannot understand why this is so difficult to understand. Whereas before the Soviet Union was merely an arms supplier, now it could serve as the maker of conditions conducive to negotiations in the Middle East. How long can one turn a blind eye, refusing to see what is happening right before one's very own eyes?

[Golan] Mr Peres, after the Moscow summit, do you anticipate any practical, substantive U.S.-Soviet cooperation to promote an international conference?

[Peres] I can foresee, in the near future, a reflection of the new relations between the Soviet Union and the United States on the Middle East, too, as this was manifest also in Afghanistan and is going to be expressed—evidently in a very impressive manner—in Angola. There are approximately 40,000 Cuban troops in Angola, and for the first time the superpowers are engaged in negotiations toward the removal of those soldiers from that country. This is a change of the first order. We are living in a new world.

What are the two superpowers doing here, after all? They came here as a result of a certain fabric of relations between them. The Soviets tried to win over only the Arab side, almost completely ignoring the Israeli side. Now the Soviets are saying, in their own way, that their foreign relations should not be based exclusively on military issues, but on politics too. Is there anyone who can fail to notice the importance of all this on the chance to find a solution to the Middle East through ways before unknown?

[Grossman] Perhaps part of this superpower flexibility could make the United States...

[Peres, interrupting] Look, you have not been listening to what I am saying. I did not talk about flexibility, I mentioned a change in the fabric of relations.

[Grossman] Fine, but this is a sign of new flexibility, and it marks a change compared to the previous situation, does it not?

[Peres] It does.

[Grossman] Furthermore, you yourself noted that. That is why I am asking whether, as part of these changes, you are preparing yourself for the possibility that the United States would drastically change its attitude toward the PLO as a means of extricating the situation from the deadlock?

[Peres] No, I am not anticipating such a move. The United States presented the PLO with conditions—and incidentally, you should notice that the Soviets have begun repeating these conditions, too; namely, that it could participate in the process only if it recognizes UN Resolutions 242 and 338. This is the first time the Soviets have presented the PLO with the same condition, saying: Stop the violence. What do you expect the Soviet Union to tell the PLO: Carry on with terrorism and Israel will come and talk to you anyway? This is nonsense. It is therefore telling the PLO: Recognize Israel's right to exist. The Soviet Union has also been telling the Arabs quite candidly: If you pursue your radicalism, you will lose everything. You, too, must support a compromise.

Let me tell you something. If a year ago people in Israel had said that such a thing could happen, no one would have believed them. But it did happen, and yet people

are still underestimating it. They say: That is not so much. Why is this? A very important change has occurred in the global fabric of relations. Although I do not deal in global matters, this front, unfortunately, directly affects everything that happens here.

[Golan] Since you mentioned the Soviet Union, in his news conference during the Moscow summit, Gorbachev mentioned, among other things, an active international conference, not an umbrella. He also talked about withdrawal from the territories. In other words, there still remains a certain gap in our positions.

[Peres] First, an active conference is a shade more muted than one with authority. In other words, on this ladder, the Soviets have gone down one rung. Yet there are still more steps. I would not recommend that we regard this as the final stage. In the version we have at hand, which appears in written form and which was read aloud to us and checked, the Soviets mentioned withdrawal from territory. I have not see the Soviet version of Gorbachev's remarks, but if what you are saying is correct, then we have an argument with the Soviet Union. I am not saying that it has already adopted Israel's positions. I am only saying that there is a certain rapprochement and that it has made a certain move from its previous positions to the present ones both in terms of their overall tone and in terms of the detailed reference to the various issues at hand. I must also point out that the Americans have to date not budged, and I deeply appreciate it.

[Golan] In your meeting this afternoon with the U.S. secretary of state, do you intend to present new ideas to help him promote, or push forward, his peace initiative?

[Peres] Look, I am doing my best to promote the peace process. Really, people sometimes no longer know what they are talking about. Suppose this great thing materializes and the peace process stops. What then? What will the result, or the alternative, be? I do not understand us. Certainly the aim of Israel's foreign policy should be to play an active role in the peace process. I have heard Mr Shamir say that we are forever offering new concessions. Well, I know of no concessions that we said we are prepared to make. I, for one, believe that abstaining from annexing the 650,000 Arab inhabitants of the Gaza Strip, who have no passport, is no concession. Rather, I regard it as a way to salvage the State of Israel. The question is how one views these issues.

I know of no concessions but those required by Israel's interest, which is twofold: to remain a Jewish state, and to bring peace to the Middle East. This is a goal we should pursue with zeal and determination.

[Grossman] Mr Peres, how should we react, or what would your reaction be, if this earthshaking report from yesterday's AL-QUDS that during the Arab summit Husayn is about to announce the severance of connections between Jordan and the West Bank proves to be true?

[Peres] I do not deal in speculation. If he announces this, I will address the matter. If it appears as a report in AL-QUDS, so be it.

[Grossman] Suppose this happens nevertheless? After all, as a politician, you must prepare for every eventuality?

[Peres] Look, I see no reason to rejoice over this. At the same time, I do not believe this is a true reflection of the facts. It is not a matter of a mechanical cutting off. I doubt very much that Jordan can mechanically cut itself off from the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria. Don't forget they are all Jordanian citizens! They have the right to cross the Jordan River. The situation is not that simple. We have heard speculation before, too. If it happens, we will discuss the matter.

[Golan] But there have been public statements to this effect, and Husayn had previously announced that he must discuss those 25 square km near the Dead Sea with Israel, while the rest should be negotiated with the Palestinians.

[Peres] Certainly there were statements, but the question is who is the addressee. I am not sure they were meant for Israeli ears. In fact, it may well be that the Jordanians are telling the Palestinians: You want to conduct your own affairs by yourselves? Fine, proceed—but who can this be done with, and what should the negotiations be about? Everyone is addressing a different public, a different audience. One ear picks up on something meant for another.

[Golan] Now that you are about to launch talks with Shultz, who is here for his third visit, are you optimistic?

[Peres] The peace process was buried many times during the past year. The very fact that it is alive makes me optimistic. I would be very worried if it ended. I would then see the arms race beginning to be introduced, providing a temptation to the naive—even if to them only. By that I mean the surface-to-surface missiles and other things. I would not like the Middle East to get into another arms race, whose results one can easily predict.

[Golan] In reality, though, time is actually running out, what with elections both here and in the United States at our doorstep.

[Peres] No, time has not run out. Elections will be held, and there is a peace process. I do not know that a peace process should necessarily stop the election process, or vice versa. The subject still continues. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry's Tamir

TA0306182088 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Interview with Avraham Tamir, the Foreign Ministry director general, by political correspondent Me'ir Kohen; date, place not given—videotaped in Hebrew with Arab subtitles]

[Text] [Tamir] Palestinian representation is still a problem because of the PLO's policy. From the U.S. viewpoint—I am not speaking for Israel here—if the PLO

would accept UN Resolution 242, the Americans would accept talks with the PLO. Still, as long as the PLO does not accept UN Resolution 242, it should not disturb the process, or the formation of a Palestinian representation in the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

[Kohen] According to reports from Egypt, Shultz will propose incorporating Palestinians from Gaza in the Egyptian delegation to the conference, and Palestinians from the West Bank in the Jordanian delegation. What is your attitude toward this proposal, to splitting the Palestinian delegation?

[Tamir] First, the idea is not new. This is the Camp David idea. The incorporation of Palestinians in both the Jordanian and Egyptian delegations, as far as the Camp David Accords are concerned, is for the purpose of the transitional period. I also expect that since an international conference is not seen in the offing before elections in Israel and in the United States—assuming, as I do, that the process will not begin without an international conference—the question is what will happen until a conference begins. The status quo, as is known, is very grave and may deteriorate further, due to the situation in the territories for one reason. Shultz will look into this question, into the use of stages, transitional or other stages—the name is not important—and the Palestinian side is very important in this context.

[Kohen] Sir, is there any chance that the U.S. secretary of state will meet in Cairo with moderate Palestinians?

[Tamir] He has not hidden his desire to meet with Palestinians who want to play a role in implementing his plan, nor is it a secret, incidentally, that Egypt is the main channel for a dialogue with the Palestinians, with the Palestinian leadership. Egypt is the main channel—let us be straightforward here—for a dialogue with the PLO from the point of view of preventing it from disturbing moves which require negotiations with Palestinians.

[Kohen] Do you believe that a meeting is possible?

[Tamir] I would not guarantee it, but I believe it is possible.

[Kohen] Mr Director General, an Arab summit will take place in Algiers at the beginning of next week. What will the condition of the peace process be? In particular, what will King Husayn's status be if a decision is made to reject the Shultz initiative?

[Tamir] I do not want to make predictions, but I do not believe that a decision will be made. The reason for this is simple. I believe that today it is clear to everyone, including the Arab sides, that the problem should be solved through political means. There is indeed an argument over the possible plans, but the Shultz plan is good from the point of view of creating a point of departure, of beginning without the preconditions of plans. Still, I do not believe that any of the Arab sides take, or do not take, into consideration the grave implications for them of rejecting the plan. This is because there is no other alternative. I do not think they want the situation to deteriorate back to what it was.

[Kohen] Are you saying this despite the fact that the extremists, the hardliners in the Arab world—Syria, Libya—will make efforts to reject the Shultz initiative?

[Tamir] Let us draw a distinction between Syria and Libya. I expect that if an international conference takes place Syria will take part in it, at a later stage if not at the beginning. Libya is a different story. Nobody can have expectations about Libya. Still, when I say there is an Arab party to peace negotiations, I am not saying there is an Arab party to solutions. There are disagreements over solutions which today seem unbridgeable. Nevertheless, there is an Arab party with which to begin a political process or to solve the problem through political means. God forbid that we turn the solutions into conditions. After all, we have always said that solutions should not be conditions. I am referring here to Syria too, after an international conference begins. Therefore, I do not think that Syria is today pressuring in the direction of having no beginning for anything.

Ben-Aharon on 'Rapprochement'

TA0506155188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office, by moderators Dan Shilon and Ya'el Dan; place not given—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening, Mr Ben-Aharon. Does Shultz' accent in Jerusalem tonight sound slightly Russian?

[Ben-Aharon] Very much so. I think he has returned full of deep impressions about the Soviet Union. He has told us a lot about the atmosphere, the contents of the talks, as well as the variety of subjects presented by the U.S. President and by the secretary himself.

[Shilon] More specifically, though, how can all this influence the situation here?

[Ben-Aharon] The secretary of state has said that even matters pertaining to superpower relations can undoubtedly influence events in our own region. This is why these matters are so important. He described them as disarmament and the development and placement of missiles and chemical weapons. All these may be matters for talks between the superpowers, but it is well known that they effect events in the Middle East as well.

[Dan] What about an understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union on the Middle East specifically, such as the international conference, for instance?

[Ben-Aharon] The secretary mentioned several kinds of regional problems. One category includes issues in which the distance between the two superpowers is still considerable, where even a chill exists. The second category described by the secretary of state includes matters in which the beginning of a rapprochement can be discerned. The third kind is one in which, besides there being rapprochement, operational decisions are being carried out, like in Afghanistan. Our problem belongs in the second category.

[Shilon] Would it be correct to assume that all those who rejected the Shultz initiative will have to accept it eventually as a U.S.-Soviet dictate?

[Ben-Aharon] No, any comments like those are out of touch with reality. There has been no mention of dictates. It is not just that; it is the whole atmosphere of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, which reflects their desire for a rapprochement and for an understanding on various issues, that can then be translated into actual deeds without any dictates. As a matter of fact, even what is going on in Afghanistan can hardly be described as the result of a superpower dictate.

[Dan] Are we being told that Husayn has not removed himself from or changed his mind about taking part in the peace process?

[Ben-Aharon] According to what Secretary of State Shultz has told us, all the parties concerned are interested in pursuing the peace process.

[Dan] Including King Husayn?

[Ben-Aharon] Including King Husayn, no doubt.

[Shilon] Is it at all realistic to envision the possibility of a shift in the Middle East peace process this summer, on the eve of elections in Israel, when the situation in Israel is one of profound controversy within the cabinet? And to top it all, we are also very close to the U.S. elections.

[Ben-Aharon] I can tell you this. The secretary of state is very determined not to let any chance go by without trying to promote the process. He wants to see again to what extent the parties in the region prove to be responsive, and what issues or points can be pushed forward. Of course, no one is ignoring the reality as you have described it.

[Dan] Has the secretary of state asked Prime Minister Shamir to abstain from deporting Mubarak 'Awwad?

[Ben-Aharon] He has not. He merely referred to the issue in private conversation. As I understood it, he simply raised the problem as a pertinent issue. But there has been no request, because the secretary knows perfectly well that the case has been debated by the High Court of Justice, which made its decision.

[Shilon] The High Court is no longer debating the issue, which means perhaps that the prime minister is now able to respond favorably to hints arriving from the United States. Is he considering this?

[Ben-Aharon] The issue is no longer debatable, because the High Court has given its ruling after a comprehensive debate of all the aspects, both of Dr 'Awwad's residence and his activities. The prime minister, in his capacity as interior minister, will carry out the High Court's ruling.

[Shilon] But the High Court has not discussed the political aspects, such as between Israel and the United States, for instance.

[Ben-Aharon] This has nothing to do with political relations between Israel and the United States.

[Shilon] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office, thank you very much.

[Ben-Aharon] And you too. Goodbye.

Shultz, Leaders Discuss Peace Process, 'Awwad

Peres Views 'Awwad Deportation

TA0506163688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] The Mubarak 'Awwad issue was discussed today in George Shultz' various meetings. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres explained to George Shultz that since Mubarak 'Awwad's case reached the High Court of Justice and was heard and decided there, it will be impossible to change the decision on his deportation from Israel. Mr Peres said this in reply to Shultz' warning against 'Awwad's deportation.

Rabin Discusses Human Rights

TA0506165688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and given him a detailed description of the situation in the territories. During the meeting, the visitor said that he understands Israel's responsibility for maintaining law and order in the territories. After the meeting, the defense minister said the following to reporters:

[Begin Rabin recording] I discussed the situation in the territories with him. We also touched on the situation in Lebanon. We held a general discussion on the human rights issue. As you know, Mr Richard Schifter, assistant secretary for human rights and humanitarian affairs will stay here for a few days, during which we will hold discussions.

As for the questions and reservations expressed by the United States regarding our treatment of the territories, we have nothing to conceal. We have written agreements

with the Red Cross, which is the international body authorized to deal with every issue pertaining to imprisonment, detention conditions, and inspection hours—the Red Cross can, for instance, visit administrative detainees any time it chooses, anywhere, without any limitations on our part—as well as other matters. The Americans also understand, however, that when confronted with violence, it is imperative to use appropriate means to ensure law and order, and the U.S. secretary of state certainly told me as much. [end recording]

Shamir Comments on Briefing

TA0506173588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Report by Arye Golan]

[Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State Shultz brought two main messages in his talks with Israeli leaders. First, King Husayn has not withdrawn from the peace initiative. He adheres to it and is still prepared to participate in it. Second, there is a rapprochement between U.S. and Soviet positions regarding the nature of the international conference and Palestinian representation in it. The secretary of state told the prime minister that there are changes in the Soviet stance. The prime minister's reaction: Further clarifications are necessary with regard to Soviet positions on the peace process. Mr Shamir, as is well known, does not find anything new in Moscow's latest comments.

A short while later, when Shultz repeated his optimism with Foreign Minister Peres regarding the USSR's movement toward U.S. positions on the international conference, Peres' reaction was: The Soviets have made progress indeed, but not enough as yet. Further rapprochement is required. Minister Peres hopes the Soviets will draw closer to the concept of a noncoercive conference, to the U.S. positions, and to the principles of the London document. The Americans are convinced that their dialogue with the USSR on the Middle East issue will continue. Shim'on Peres told his guest that peace is more important for him than a victory in the elections. The continuation of the process should not be delayed until after the November elections, since the forces opposed to peace are not waiting for November.

At noon, upon leaving their first meeting at the prime minister's office, Shamir and Shultz were all smiles and polite.

[Begin Shamir recording in English] As always, a very happy opportunity to have the secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, with us, and listen to his impressions about the important meetings in Moscow. And, we are very grateful to the secretary for sharing with us his comments, his interpretations, and his views. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Says Soviet Changes 'Semantic'

TA0506174488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Excerpts] Secretary Shultz briefed Prime Minister Shamir on the changes in the Soviet positions on the Middle East peace process. Shultz also reported on the outcome of his talks with King Husayn. The king has not abdicated his role in the negotiations, Shultz said. He is very much in the process. Prime Minister Shamir praised the efforts of the United States on behalf of Soviet Jewry and nuclear disarmament and presented Shultz with a memorandum on the deteriorating situation of the Jews in Syria.

[Begin Shamir recording] We are very grateful to the secretary for sharing with us his comments, his interpretations, and his views. We have also started to discuss some problems concerning our area, our country, our relationship with the United States, and it was a very good opportunity for me to express our thanks for the last memorandum of understanding that we have signed in a great part thanks to the efforts of our guest, the secretary of state. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Sources close to Shamir said the prime minister sees the changes in the Soviet position as purely semantic. [passage omitted]

Further Peres, Rabin Remarks

TA0506194288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will soon meet with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, to continue to discuss the peace process in the Middle East. This has been learned in Jerusalem this evening. During the talks Shultz held with the prime minister and the vice prime minister, the secretary of state reported that King Husayn continues to adhere to his peace initiative and has not changed his position. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports on U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' talks with Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Peres in English, picked up in midsentence] ...in the second summit meeting in the last few months between President Reagan and Secretary Gorbachev, and the work that was done by Secretary Shultz and Shevardnadze in between, has added so much hope for every peace-loving people in the world, that we feel encouraged and relieved, and we are thankful for the changed air globally, and not just for the hopes regionally over here. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent in the Knesset Elimelekh Ram] After a 45-minute delay the secretary of state arrived for a meeting with Defense Minister Rabin, who reviewed the situation in the territories, emphasizing that Israel will

not submit to violence: We will not impose a solution on the residents of the territories, but will not allow them to impose a solution on us through violent means. Shultz: We understand your responsibility for maintaining law and order. The PLO, Rabin told Shultz, will not let you meet leaders in the territories. As for the issue of violations of human rights, the secretary of state asked for a single office in the Israeli Government from which updated and reliable information on incidents in the territories can be received. Assistant Secretary Richard Schifter will remain in Israel a few more days, and together with the defense establishment will try to find an appropriate briefing method. As for the defense minister's meetings with leaders in the territories, the U.S. secretary said this is a very positive move.

[Rabin] I briefed him on the main points, on my impressions, as well as the reasons that led me to the decision to hold a dialogue and hear the full spectrum of opinion held by Palestinian residents who live in the territories, whether they are members of the Islamic groups or those who are closer to the PLO or Jordan in their outlook. We constitute the government for the residents in the territories. I, as defense minister on behalf of the government, am in charge of running the territories, and I see a need to maintain a dialogue with people who hold various views and who have not been involved in violence or terror. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shamir Leaves for New York; To Meet Shevardnadze
TA0606051788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir left from Ben-Gurion Airport for New York last night to participate in a special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament. Before leaving, the prime minister spoke to reporters. More from Le'a Zinder:

[Begin recording] [Zinder] The prime minister said disarmament is an urgent issue, not only among the superpowers but also in the Middle East, especially because of the chemical warfare introduced into the region in the Iran-Iraq war.

In New York, Mr Shamir will also hold meetings with heads of state and foreign ministers attending the session, among them, Mr Shevardnadze, foreign minister of the Soviet Union.

Mr Shamir met twice with Secretary Shultz in the course of the secretary's whirlwind visit yesterday. Secretary Shultz briefed him on the summit conference in Moscow, with special reference to U.S. actions on behalf of Soviet Jewry. Mr Shamir told reporters last night he does not fear possible U.S.-Soviet agreement on the Middle East peace process.

[Shamir] Depends on the character of the understanding. If they will, together, take a positive position toward Israel, then it's good if both superpowers have such a position.

[Zinder] Mr Shamir said he made clear to Secretary Shultz that the 6 months of the intifadha [uprising] had not changed his views on the situation.

[Shamir] I am convinced that more and more Palestinian Arabs will understand in the near future that this way of violence will not bring any positive results for their people and for their aspirations, and they will understand that the only way that could serve their interests is the way of negotiations.

[Zinder] Prime Minister Shamir returns to Israel at the end of this week. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 6 June also carries a report on Prime Minister Shamir's news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to his departure for New York, providing the following recorded Shamir remarks on his upcoming meeting with Shevardnadze: "We have a lot to say. I would say we face two types of problems. One is the Soviet Union's attitude toward regional problems—Israel in the Middle East and the absence of normal ties between Israel and the Soviet Union. The other involves the whole gamut of the Soviet Jewry issue. I believe our conversation will focus on these two major items. I harbor no hostile feelings toward the Soviet Union. I will be happy if our relations improve and we establish normal ties someday. This is in our interest."]

Sharon Rejects 'Economic Pressure' From U.S.
TA0606105788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] The United States has severely criticized Israel for violating the free trade zone accord. Our economic affairs correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that in a personal letter to the industry and trade minister, U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering maintains that Israel is imposing taxes arbitrarily to raise the prices of goods imported from the United States and make their Israeli equivalents more competitive.

In reply, Minister Sharon said that he rejects any U.S. attempt to impose economic pressure on Israel. He also expressed his amazement over the leak about the letter, noting that this creates an uneasy atmosphere in bilateral relations. As to the charges themselves, Minister Sharon's office has told our correspondent Menahem Friedman that the ministry's policy is the same as that followed by all countries of the world, including the United States: to try to protect Israeli exports and local industry. Minister Sharon added that the Americans, too, are discriminating against imported Israeli products.

Rabin Notes Possible Return of Deportees

TA0606102188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that if quiet continues in the territories, he will consider various ways to ease the situation. This might include allowing deportees to return. Mr Rabin was speaking to Center Movement leaders Amnon Rubinstein and Yitzhaq Artzi and authorized them to deliver such a message to the Liberal International conference which they will attend.

On another matter, the defense minister said he cannot order KAKH Movement members in the territories disarmed unless that organization is declared illegal in Judaea and Samaria. The above was reported by our correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Mordekhay Comments on Situation in Gaza Strip

TA0306193688 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Interview with Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, by Eli Kahil; date and place not given—videotaped in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles]

[Text] [Mordekhay] It is true that we are facing dates of commemoration next week [the anniversaries of both the Six-Day War and the Peace for Galilee Operation]. I very much hope that the residents of the Gaza Strip will not be tempted to deviate from the modes of life which have been increasingly established lately. One should understand that this process adopted by the residents of the territories [one second interruption in transmission] if they were possible to achieve, they were achieved, and if they were impossible to achieve, there is no chance they will be achieved anymore. This only increases the suffering, the pain, and the difficulties of the Gaza Strip residents. I would like to again appeal to the residents of the Gaza Strip and tell them that the correct way to return to normal life today and to render possible work, commerce, services, studies, development, thoughts for the future, all those elements which were impaired in one way or another... [changes thought] It is necessary today to return to normal modes of life that will allow for the welfare of all residents.

[Kahil] In light of the relative normalization in the Gaza Strip over the last 2 to 4 weeks, are you considering any relief measures for the residents, such as family reunions or the release of prisoners?

[Mordekhay] We are certainly considering such measures for the residents. At the end of next week, if we indeed reach the conclusion that the residents themselves are returning to normal modes of life, we will ease up the curfew hours. We will release a number of detainees. We will recommend additional improvements in the life systems which have been partly disrupted. In places where quiet and order have been maintained throughout we will allow summer visits. In contrast, in places where disturbances have taken place, we will absolutely prevent the arrival of family members for visits. We shall unequivocally prevent black market trading and all the illegal activity going on in the commercial sphere. This disrupts public order as well as businessmen who cannot handle business as it should be handled. We will enable those businessmen who have run into difficulties to space out their loans and taxes. We will meet them half-way by preventing taxation from being the element preventing them from returning to routine activity. We shall make it possible to arrange guards. We shall act against those who threaten or harm the businessmen who are becoming increasingly weaker, who are being increasingly impoverished. This ultimately hurts the entire Gaza Strip.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Workers Withdraw Resignations

TA0306134688 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Jun 88 p 1

[Report by Yehuda Litnai]

[Text] Twenty Palestinians who had quit the Civil Administration were persuaded by Israeli colleagues to withdraw their resignations, Israeli sources said yesterday. The officials work at the Civil Administration's transportation and licensing department in the Ramallah area.

Three other Palestinian officials, who were called to a meeting with the military governor of Ramallah but failed to show up, are being questioned by the Ramallah police. Arab sources in Ramallah said last night that the 20 had not been persuaded but "threatened."

In Bethlehem, Arab sources said yesterday that 22 income-tax department officials who had quit their jobs were called to the local military governor, who threatened them and tried to persuade them to return to work.

Israeli sources said last night that they had no knowledge of this.

Leaders of the intifadha [uprising] have recently called on Palestinian officials in some Civil Administration departments (such as transportation and tax) to resign.

According to reliable Israeli sources, most of the dozens of officials who claim to have resigned have not really left but are taking "extended vacation." This, the sources explained, freed them of pressure and enabled them to tell friends and relatives that they had quit. The Israeli sources say that there is no doubt that most of them will "soon" return to their jobs.

120 Detainees Will Be Released

TA0306184688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] This coming Sunday, 120 boys will be released from jails in the territories as a gesture toward the local population. Boys who were detained due to grave offenses, including the throwing of Molotov cocktails and assaulting soldiers, will not be released. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the boys will be released at the defense minister's instruction, at the request of notables from the territories with whom he talked this week.

1 Shot, Several Wounded 3 Jun

TA0306190788 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Excerpts] An Arab youth, a resident of the village of Al-Shuyukh in the Hebron Hills was shot dead today. The Israeli police are investigating the circumstances of the killing of Mustafa Ahmad 'Udda Hallayqa, 20, whose body was brought to the Hebron hospital at noon. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 3 June adds: "In the investigation of the incident in which a youth from the Al-Shuyukh village was killed today local residents testified that it was five Israelis who shot the youth. According to them, the five arrived at the village this morning and began to damage local houses. Al-Shuyukh youths gathered around them and tried to drive them away, at which point the Israelis severely beat and injured two of them, and later fired at the others. One of the youths was killed and another wounded as a result of the shootings."]

Following the killing of the youth, violent demonstrations broke out in the village of Al-Shuyukh and in the nearby village of Si'ir, after which additional wounded people were reported in both villages.

There were also disturbances in the casbah in Nabulus today, and at least two of the demonstrators were wounded by soldiers' shots. [passage omitted]

Arab Shot by IDF Near Ramallah

TA0306201688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] An Arab youth was shot and killed this evening by an IDF officer in the village of Umm Safa' near Ramallah. Military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that an IDF patrol entered the village after stones were thrown there. Arab residents surrounded the patrol and threw stones. An IDF officer fired several shots in the air, and later fired at the legs of the stonethrowers. The youth, a 26-year-old resident of the village of Dayr Ibzi', was killed as a result of this shooting.

At noon, two Nabulus residents were wounded in their legs by soldiers' firing following a riot. In the afternoon a curfew was imposed on the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem due to riots.

1 Wounded in Gaza; Curfew Update

TA0406130388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] A woman from the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was shot in the hand and hospitalized. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the IDF is investigating the incident.

This morning, IDF troops dispersed riots in Al-Nusayrat and Al-Burayj refugee camps. Both these camps, as well as the Al-Mughazi camp, are under blockade. A curfew remains in force in the Jabalyah refugee camp.

A general strike is in effect today in the Gaza Strip.

Strike Protests Shultz Visit

TA0406180888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Several disturbances took place in Judaea and Samaria today, including stone throwing at security forces. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a full commercial strike was effected throughout Judaea and Samaria, protesting Secretary Shultz' visit to the area.

The curfews in Qalqilyah, Shuwaykah, and the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp continue.

Gaza Arab 'Severely Beaten'

TA0406202588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] A 22-year-old resident of the Al-Burayj refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was brought to the Ashqelon hospital tonight by military police with bruises all over his body. There has been no report on his condition so far.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the man was apprehended trying to hurl a Molotov cocktail, and was severely beaten. An IDF spokesman's representative in the Gaza Strip said the army is investigating the incident.

Injured Gazan Baby Compensated

TA0506104688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] The Civil Administration in Gaza says it will give all the necessary assistance to the Jabalyah camp baby who lost an eye after being hit by a rubber bullet 6 days ago during a demonstration. The administration says it will pay for all medical costs and her other needs. At the same time, the Gaza administration announced that no

soldier would be put on trial for the incident. This after investigations showed that none had fired at the mother holding the baby. The child was apparently hit by a ricochet.

Soldier Given 1 Year in Prison

TA0506124688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Excerpt] The Southern Military Court today gave 24-year-old Private Ya'aqov Tamir 1 year in prison and 2 years suspended sentence after finding him guilty of killing an Arab resident of Gaza in January 1988. 'Ezra Yanuv, our correspondent in the south, reports that the court took the defendant's mental state, the tensions he lived under, and the hardships of his life into consideration when passing the sentence. [passage omitted]

120 Students Released for School

TA0506160388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] The Judaea and Samaria Civilian Administration today released about 120 high school students who had been detained during disturbances in recent months. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that this afternoon the students were brought to the Military Government where they were released after hearing a short explanatory speech. The release is a goodwill gesture on the eve of the reopening of high schools tomorrow.

Officer To Head Refugee Camp

TA0606053888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] The Civilian Administration in the Gaza Strip has appointed an officer holding the rank of major to run the Al-Burayj refugee camp, following the resignation a few days ago of the local council head. The officer and other staff personnel will start working there in 2 days.

Our correspondent Moti Amir adds that the Civilian Administration has recently instituted more stringent inspection procedures at the Erez and Nahal 'Oz roadblocks. Staff officers manning these roadblocks inspect goods leaving the Gaza Strip and report them to the tax authorities. Gaza City residents who tried to leave for Israel without new identity cards were asked to go back and exchange their old identity cards.

W. Bank High Schools Reopen

TA0606090388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] Studies in Judaea and Samaria high schools resumed this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the studies in Judaea and Samaria were stopped by order of the Military Government at the beginning of the uprising approximately 5 months ago. Today the entire education system in Judaea and Samaria, with the exception of the universities, is operating. The 37,000 students involved went back to school without incident.

Richard Schifter, the assistant U.S. secretary of state, came to Gaza this morning accompanied by Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories. He toured the city and is now being briefed on the situation in the area.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the relative quiet in the Gaza Strip continues. Most of the stores are open and market activity is brisk.

Court Bars Al-Birah Deportation

TA0606094788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] The High Court of Justice this morning issued an interim order barring the deportation of 'Adnan Zahir of Al-Birah until after the hearing on his appeal against the commander of the Central Command. The deportation order against Zahir was issued in April, 4 days after the events in Bayta. He appealed to the consultative committee affiliated with the commander's office, and it recommended that the deportation procedure continue. In his appeal, Zahir claims that his deportation order was issued in an attempt to appease the settlers after the Bayta incident.

Our legal affairs correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack reports that yesterday another candidate for deportation appealed to the High Court of Justice. The deportation order against Ahmad Salman from the village of Turmus 'Ayya was issued at the same time.

Shultz Arrives; Moscow Summit Results Assessed

JN0406112088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Amman at noon today from Cairo for a visit to Jordan in the course of his current Mideast tour. He will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials.

Briefs King Husayn

JN0406172988 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn received U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz at Al-Nadwah Palace today. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan attended the meeting.

At the instructions of President Reagan, Shultz briefed His Majesty King Husayn on the assessment of the results of the Moscow summit between the U.S. President and the Soviet leaders on the various international and regional issues discussed, particularly the Middle East issue. Shultz stressed that the United States will continue its efforts to achieve a comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He also stressed the United States' adherence to principles included in President Reagan's 1982 initiative. He stressed that the settlement will deal with the legitimate political rights of Palestinians and will consider UN Security Council Resolution 242, which calls for the exchange of territory for peace, a basis for action in the region.

The prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, the court minister, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and the foreign minister attended the meeting. The meeting was also attended by the delegation accompanying Shultz and the U.S. ambassador in Amman. [passage omitted]

Shultz was seen off at Amman airport by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, a number of senior officials, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

USSR Envoys View Summit

JN0506092688 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Jun 88 p 1, 2

[By Najwa Nassar and Nirmin Murad]

[Excerpts] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn Saturday met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz at Al-Nadwah Palace and Shultz briefed the King on the American assessment of the Moscow summit regarding world issues and regional issues, most important of which was the Middle East problem.

The Jordanian News Agency (PETRA) reported that Shultz said the United States was committed to continuing efforts towards reaching a just and durable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

PETRA said Shultz also reiterated the United States' commitment to the basic provisions of the Reagan initiative of 1982 to reach a Middle East peace settlement, including the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 242. [passage omitted]

PETRA did not elaborate on the substance of the meeting.

In an arrival statement, Shultz said he had returned to Jordan to keep his peace proposal alive focusing on "an equitable, lasting and comprehensive peace between Arabs and Israelis."

Shultz said implementation of U.N. Resolution 242 and addressing the political rights of the Palestinian people and Israel's security concerns remained the key elements of the peace settlement advocated by the U.S. The concept of "exchange of territory for peace" as contained in Resolution 242 should "apply to all fronts," he said.

However, Shultz refrained from directly addressing the thorny issue of the extent of the perceived Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, but said "the pace of... implementation (of territorial withdrawal) and the nature of the relations that will exist across borders—all these issues are issues for negotiations, among the parties themselves."

Shultz conceded that there can be no settlement without addressing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and Israel's "security concerns as well as those of other states in the region."

"The Arab-Israeli conflict is more than just a dispute over boundaries. It involves identity, aspirations, legitimacy and history," Shultz said.

"For all this to work, there must be Palestinian-Israeli accomodation. This is not a matter of winner-take-all, in which one side can win everything it wants. Palestinians and Israelis must learn to treat each other decently, respect their mutual right to live in security and fulfill their political aspirations."

Soviet Stand

Despite the conciliatory approach evident in the statement, Palestinian leaders and analysts said they found no fundamental change in the American approach to the Arab-Israeli confflict. Some said they had expected some change in the U.S. stand, particularly after last week's superpower summit in moscow, where Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Washington and Moscow were drawing closer on means to settle the Middle East problem after remaining split over years.

Soviet ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuk told the JORDAN TIMES that no "material" change in the American stand emerged during the Moscow summit.

"We wanted progress, but we did not find readiness on the Americans side. The Americans reaffirmed their position which is the Shultz plan," the ambassador said.

Zinchuk conceded that Washington's acceptance of Soviet participation in an international conference was a welcome development but said it was not enough and referred to the basic difference in the American and Soviet views over the nature and powers of the called-for international forum. "They are talking about something and we are talking about something else," the Soviet ambassador said.

The U.S. believes that the international conference should be a ceremonial opening for direct negotiations between Israel and Arab states while the Soviet Union says the conference should have an effective role in negotiations.

The Soviet ambassador to Egypt, Gennadiy Zhuravlev, was quoted by international agencies saying that "for the first time, the U.S. has agreed on the importance of Soviet participation in the peace process in order to solve the Middle East problem."

Zhuravlev said Washington and Moscow agreed that Israel had a right to the same level of security as other states in the region. He said the atmosphere was favourable for an international conference but there were differences in Moscow over its exact role and over Palestinian representation.

In a Moscow statement during the summit, Gorbachev emphasised that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should be an essential participant in the international conference. There was no explanation to the obvious difference in the statement made Saturday by the Soviet ambassador in Cairo.

Foreign officials interviewed by the JORDAN TIMES pointed to "the wording" of the statement issued by Shultz Saturday as a positive step. "The phrasing has been more tactfully done. The order of listing of the fundamental issues seems to have changed. Usually Israeli security would be the priority, with the other two elements following," said one official who requested anonymity.

Change of Emphasis

A journalist travelling with Shultz said: "There is a change of emphasis not in belief...the U.S. policy is the same. Shultz lays out all the facts and reasons in hope that everyone will see the logic of it."

However, Arab analysts agreed that the statement still caters to the Israel position more than to solving the Palestinian issue. The analysts pointed out that Shultz did not address the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and had left "Palestinian political rights" as a vague statement seen as a concession to the Israelis.

"The Americans are not willing to say what they mean by Palestinian political rights. Do they mean that Israelis should withdraw completely to the 1967 borders and that an independent Palestinian state should be created with the same rights as the Israelis?" said an analyst here who preferred not to be named.

The ambiguity has led analysts to believe that Shultz's plan has come "to help the Israelis in a time of crisis and to abort the Palestinian uprising."

The PLO has rejected the Shultz plan and Palestinians in the occupied territories have refused to meet with Shutlz because the plan makes no mention of the PLO.

Palestinian Stand

PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim said: "The Palestinian people have written in blood that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, self-determination is a basic right and the right to a state is a human right. As long as any power tries to bypass or alter these principles, then there is no seriousness of intention for a just peaceful and durable solution."

Milhim referred to the American constitution, which 20 years ago adopted the principle of human rights and self-determination. "I think it is time for the U.S. to return to these principles and not to miss an opportunity for an international peace conference."

He said such a move would be especially positive after the Moscow summit, the easing of the "cold war" and implementation of regional solutions.

Shultz's Talks in Cairo

Before arriving in Jordan, the U.S. secretary of state discussed his plan with Egyptian leaders Saturday. Shultz told reporters in a departure statement from Cairo that he and President Husni Mubarak discussed "the various elements of the peace initiative" and also the Arab summit meeting next Tuesday in Algiers.

Upon his arrival in Cairo Friday, Shultz urged Israel and Arabs to bury "prejudices, hatred and overblown dreams in favour of a negotiated settlement."

"Too often, people become convinced that only their dream or their causes are legitimate," Shultz said. "They deny the rights of others. They avoid the realism on the ground."

"The conflict is not the fault of one party or the other. No party has sole responsibility for solving it. There are no cheap or painless fixes. No one can avoid taking difficult steps," Shultz said.

Shultz, on his fourth regional peace mission this year, returned to Cairo from Amman for more talks with Mubarak over dinner.

In a session with Egyptian editors before flying to Amman, Shultz said: "The situation remains one in which there are great problems."

Shultz said President Reagan wants to "accomplish as much as he can and to leave as much of a constructive base for his success as possible."

The administration has less than eight months to go. "He says: 'as any good actor knows, you save your best scene for the last act'," Shultz said. [passage omitted]

TIMES Calls Shultz Remarks 'Incredibly Naive'

JN0506104288 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Jun 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Dizzy, But Promising"]

[Text] George Shultz, like his country, is a combination of wonderful and awful elements, of enlightenment and darkness. He showed this once again in his arrival statement at Cairo airport Friday. His tone was hortatory, insulting, uncalled for, incredibly naive and, all in all, best forgotten and forgiven. His attempt to balance Israel and Arab positions is historically inaccurate and morally unfair, for it was not by the weather and wind of the Holy Land that Palestinian Arabs constituted over 92 per cent of the population of Palestine at the turn of the century, but today constitute a minority living under Israeli control.

There has been a massive inflow of Israeli Jews, the decimation and dispersal of a Palestinian national community, and the large-scale denial of Palestinian rights. There is tremendous and very obvious imbalance in the rights and wrongs of the Arab-Israeli conflict insofar as events in Palestine are concerned. The Israeli Jews took the land and created a state. The Palestinians lost virtually all their human and political rights. Mr. Shultz puts on a dazzling show of his dizzy understanding of history when he attempts, in his concern to appear even-handed, to balance the rights and wrongs done in Palestine. He looks foolish, and he should drop the line from his future performances.

Nevertheless, he has also said some new and interesting things this week. He referred to the Arab-Israeli conflict as one of two national movements seeking sovereignty, and he talked of "Palestinian nationalism." If such phrases represent a new American appreciation of the national, political nature of the Palestinian struggle for political and human rights, then Mr. Shultz deserves some applause along with the abuse. He is also to be praised for highlighting the need for all in the region to revise their perceptions of security concepts and arrangements. These two elements are positive; coming from the American secretary of state, they are downright sparkling.

If he has summoned the courage and the honesty to talk of Palestinian nationalism, we urge him to continue on the same road, to reassess the full meaning of his call for Palestinian "legitimate rights," to wed the two together in a statement which places the United States on record as supporting Palestinian national rights, and, finally, to aspire to play the role of a genuinely impartial mediator, who seeks implementation of both Israeli and Palestinian national rights in Palestine, rather than to continue pushing the present package of pro-Israeli concepts wrapped in moralistic bombast and suspended from a historical perspective somewhere in the Twilight Zone, if not left field itself. Mr. Shultz reminds us this week that the United States still offers a perplexing combination of hope and despair, though he still has a way to go before we see which of the two will triumph.

Paper on 'New Flexibility' in Shultz' Statement

JN0506124888 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Jun 88 p 1, 15

[Editorial: "Shultz' New Statement Are Positive But..."]

[Text] We shall not be talking about the new flexibility which has surrounded U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' statements in his fourth tour with Cairo as its starting point, because this flexibility has arisen due to objective circumstances surrounding Shultz' ideas and not due to a real change in the actual purports of the ideas which still need a great deal of explanation and clarification from the U.S. secretary of state himself.

The new U.S. ideas have introduced some new terms and expressions which would be premature to judge. We will have to wait until the outcome of the final talks to know whether these new expressions which have been used in the fourth round mean a radical change in Shultz' ideas or whether they are merely rhetoric.

There is no doubt that the flexibility of Shultz' ideas—which has not been put to the test yet—is a result of the Moscow summit on the one hand, and a result of an atmosphere where popular Palestinian revolution in the occupied Arab territories is still active and has new results on the other. A third significant aspect is that these ideas have come just before the emergency Arab summit in Algeria, which will discuss political moves in the region, and analyze and re-evaluate them from a new and unified viewpoint.

The U.S. secretary of state, who has one eye on the uprising and another on the Algiers summit ought to know that using flexible wording and new terms and

expressions is not enough. He ought to end this inflexibility in his ideas by making them firm and public and presenting them as the U.S. Administration's position on the settlement of the Palestine question in all its dimensions and on the legitimate rights and representation of the Palestinian people.

Even though the U.S. secretary of state mentioned Security Council Resolution 242 with its basic principles which must lead to peace and trading land for peace, and even though he paused at the political and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, all this—with all the positiveness imposed upon it by reality—needs to be crystalized into a position that takes into consideration a comprehensive settlement. This will not happen without an international conference with full powers, effective authority in its resolutions, and an arbiter's role in things that happen inside the general conference and the within committees stemming from it.

Confronted with the U.S. secretary of state's statements and the flexibility that has occurred, we have to reconfirm our basic and firm principles which we will insist on in any settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine issue to ensure a comprehensive solution for both and so that negotiations on both to reach a comprehensive settlement will only take place in an international conference with full powers.

The international conference, as we would like to confirm anew during Shultz' fourth tour, will not only be a festive international meeting whose sole aim is to start direct negotiations, but will have to reflect the constant moral power of the five permanent members of the Security Council in helping the disputing parties reach a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

If the U.S. secretary of state has paused at the Security Council resolution to remind everyone of it and to stress it, we believe that the principles of Resolution 242 apply to all occupied Arab teritories, are the basis of bilateral committee negotiations, and are not subject to negotiation.

Jordan, which has repeated over and over again that it will not represent the Palestinian people in the conference and will not negotiate instead of the PLO on a settlement of the Palestine question, is interested in having the PLO invited to the conference as a condition for holding the conference, leaving it up to the PLO to decide how it will attend. Jordan also announced that it is ready to attend the conference in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

If the U.S. initiative is still trying to answer the Jordanian principles which were handed by King Husayn to U.S. secretary of state during his third tour, the Jordanian position will not be determined unless it answers the Jordanian questions with full clarity and obvious commitment. Only then will this initiative disengage itself from the Israeli concept and will reconsider its policies and its reasons for existence in the first place. Only then will it be dealt with seriously and be presented to the Arab summit which will give its opinion on it as one of the steps toward peace.

King Telephones Iraqi, Egyptian Presidents

JN0606053388 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] In two telephone conservations made last night, His Majesty King Husayn exchanged viewpoints on the current Arab situations and on the convening of the summit conference to be held in Algiers with his brothers Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Reportage on Status of Foreign Hostages

4 Possibly Moved From Suburb

JN0406155588 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 3 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] Beirut, AL-BAYAN—Security sources in Beirut told AL-BAYAN yesterday that the kidnappers in the southern suburb may have transferred four of the hostages to a place outside the suburb. It is believed they were transferred to the eastern region.

The same sources, who are connected to Syrian groups in the Lebanese capital, asserted that Syrian troops were certain of information they have that two hostages were present during the battles in the suburb.

Waite Imprisonment Conditions

LD0406225488 London Press Association in English 2229 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Kidnapped church envoy Mr Terry Waite is now imprisoned in a tiny, dank cell in a former school in Beirut's southern suburbs, it is claimed today.

According to the MAIL on Sunday, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, who disappeared in January last year on a hostage-freeing mission, is being held in the building with 17 other Western captives.

They are said to include British journalist Mr John McCarthy and Belfast teacher Mr Brian Keenan.

The hostages were reportedly transferred during recent fierce fighting.

They are guarded day and night by members of the Hizballah group supervised by Iranian Revolutionary Guards, it is claimed.

FRG Seeking Cordes Release

NC0506173488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Citing sources concerned with the hostages issue, the AKHBAR LUBNAN AGENCY has reported that the German Government is now holding contacts with the kidnappers of German hostage Rudolf Cordes in order to secure his release. The sources affirmed that the negotiations will conclude with the release of Cordes in return for the release of Muhammad and Abbas 'Ali Hamadah.

The sources linked these negotiations with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to West Germany.

Meanwhile, 'Asim Qansuh [regional secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon] has stated that Syria will exert efforts to find a happy end to the hostages issue.

UK Negotiator En Route

NC0506193988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] The Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD has cited a Lebanese source as having said that a British official has arrived in Cyprus en route to Beirut to negotiate with the kidnappers of British hostages. The paper expects important developments to emerge regarding the fate of the foreign hostages within the coming weeks.

Birri Announces Disbandment of Amal Militias

NC0306123588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri held a news conference this afternoon and announced the disbandment of the Amal Movement's militia throughout Lebanon, except in the South. He requested the militiamen to join the Movement's regular army in Al-Biqa' and Beirut. Minister Birri urged all armed men to take their weapons and go to the South in order to fight Israel. He requested the Movement's military command in the South to open a training center in every city and village to train everyone in the South.

Minister Birri asserted that the Amal Movement is not responsible for the security in the southern suburb, Beirut, or Al-Biqa'. These areas are seen as the responsibility of national security under the supervision of fraternal Syria, he said. The Movement, he added, will devote its activities in these areas to political action and to services. All the Movement's offices in the southern suburb itself, he stated, will be closed, with the exception of one office in each area to carry out political activities.

During his news conference, Minister Birri reiterated his proposal on the formation of an operations room for the resistance in the South. He called on everyone who wishes, to join it. He said that the Amal Movement is ready to listen to any party that wants to reconsider its calculations. The Movement, he added, is prepared to establish real relations which are not based on fragmentation, implicit occupation, or exploitation of the Amal Movement under any slogan.

Minister Birri further declared that the quadripartite committee is now dealing with the question of contact lines and gunmen's offices.

Syrians Reportedly Arrest Hizballah Elements

JN0406063888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0605 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Jun (WAKH)—Press reports said here today that the Syrian security appartuses operating in Lebanon have embarked on large-scale arrests in the ranks of the Hizballah organization in the wake of an attempt to assassinate Syrian military commanders in Lebanon a few days ago. The reports added that Brigadier Genral Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, is personally following up the questioning of the detainees. Citing sources in Lebanon, the Abu Dhabi-based paper AL-ITTIHAD said that Brig Gen Kan'an has issued an ultimatum to the Hizballah leadership that Damascus will not stand by with folded arms

during any attempt to explode the situation in the southern suburb after the entry of the Syrian forces. Kan'an gave the Hizballah leadership a deadline to hand over the persons responsible for the assassination attempt. Otherwise, the Syrian forces will take the necessary measures to reach them.

Fadlallah Predicts Syrian Security Plan To Fail

NC0406192888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Tension is prevailing in the Al-Musharafiyah area in Al-Shiyah. An alert has been declared between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the area following the clash that took place today in which four persons were wounded. Hizballah has warned that it will not remain silent concerning such practices, saying that they endanger the security plan for the southern suburb.

Security sources in the southern suburb reported today that Syrian occupation forces arrested two members of Hizballah near the Cinderella bakeries in Bi'r al-'Abd yesterday evening because they were carrying their personal weapons. They also arrested three other members who were distributing leaflets in the Al-Laylakah area.

Meanwhile, Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah today predicted the failure of the so-called Syrian security plan for the southern suburb.

Inter-Palestinian Fighting Continues, 2 Killed

NC0406055788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Tension is simmering in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in Sidon following violent clashes which broke out between pro-'Arafat gunmen and dissidents at 2200 yesterday. Heavy- and medium-caliber weapons were used in the fighting. Two people were killed and two others wounded.

Clashes Resume in Beirut Camp

NC0506050088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Fighting broke out last night between warring Palestinian groups in Burj al-Barajinah camp. At around midnight, dissidents and pro-'Arafat gunmen exchanged rocket and machinegun fire, which according to preliminary reports left two people dead and nine wounded.

Syrians Accused of Shelling

NC0506143588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] An official source of the Fatah movement in Beirut has indirectly accused the Syrians of supporting the dissidents in shelling the Burj al-Barajinah camp from areas in West Beirut and the mountain.

In a statement issued this afternoon, the source said that the dissidents inflamed the security situation in the camp while the follow-up committee was working on the consolidation of the cease-fire agreement and the withdrawal of the gunmen. He said that the dissidents opened fire with heavy- and medium-machineguns and with mortars from Sports City, Spinneys, Hursh Bayrut, Al-'Amiliyah, the airport road, and the mountain. The statement questioned the reasons for permitting the dissidents to shell the camps from areas in West Beirut, and called on all Palestinian groups and factions to fulfill their commitments and take serious steps to stop the eruptions and shelling by the dissidents.

The follow-up committee, which is composed of members of the Palestinian groups, met at noon today to discuss the recurring setbacks in the camps. In the meantime, elements loyal to 'Arafat and the dissidents continue to exchange sniper fire in the Burj al-Barajinah camp.

'Arafat Criticized

NC0506190488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Abu 'Isa [not further identified], member of the Fatah—the Uprising command and chief of the central operations in the command, has stated: We have definite information that orders and instructions have been issued from Tunis to 'Arafat's group in Burj al-Barajinah camp, asking it to do all it can to maintain flare-ups in Burj al-Barajinah camp and the surrounding areas because this will serve 'Arafat's line at the Algiers summit. It is 'Arafat who has declared that the Syrian Army is shelling our camps, and that anyone who wants to open a new page in relations with the PLO would not do this.

Al-Jumayyil To Submit Plan to Arab Summit

NC0506163988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Citing sources from the presidential palace in B'abda, the Abu Dhabi paper AL-ITTIHAD today reports that President Amin al-Jumayyil will submit a five-point plan for solving the Lebanese crisis to the Arab summit in Algiers. According to these points, the president pledges to deploy the Lebanese Army in all East Beirut, convene a ministerial meeting—which he will not chair—to pave the way for a 2-month truce by all Lebanese parties, and form a mini cabinet of five ministers to prepare for the Lebanese presidential elections in August.

The paper adds that President al-Jumayyil has contacted several Arab capitals in the past few days to discuss this plan which, the sources said, enjoys the support of the U.S. Administration. The sources also stated that Saudi Arabia has received a copy of this plan.

Indian Officials Arrive; Discuss Relations

Natwar Singh Arrives

JN0306184788 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Natwar Singh, Indian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Damascus this evening. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Information Minister Muhammad Salman, Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'ullah al Fattal, the director of protocol at the ministry, the Indian ambassador, and the embassy staff.

Singh made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he affirmed his government's interest in existing relations between Syria and India. He indicated that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit is the first of its kind on this level in the history of Syrian-Indian relations. He said Gandhi is looking forward to exchanging viewpoints with President Hafiz al-Asad on bilateral, regional, and international issues during this visit. He added: We are looking forward to this visit given that we are among the nonaligned countries, especially since there is a similarity of issues between the two friendly countries.

Prime Minister Arrives

JN0406104588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 4 Jun 8

[Text] Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his wife arrived in Damascus at 1000 today on an official and cordial visit to Syria at the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad.

At the head of those receiving him at Damascus International Airport were Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his wife. Also receiving him were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Indian Minister of state for external Affairs Natwar Singh; Syrian Ambassador to India Muhammad Khadir; the Indian charge d'affairs in Damascus; and their wives.

Two children presented bouquets to Mr Gandhi and his wife before he and al-Zu'bi left for the platform. The Indian and Syrian national anthems were played as a 21-gun salute for the great guest of Syria was being fired. After Gandhi and al-Zu'bi reviewed the guards of honor, the Indian prime minister shook hands with the senior officials who were receiving him—the deputy prime ministers, the ministers, and members of the diplomatic corp accredited to Damascus.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi gave a statement to journalists in the airport. He said: The friendly relations between Syria and India date back a long time. The two countries are members of the Nonaligned Movement and are linked by many other factors. There are a number of important issues in the region that we look forward to discussing and exchanging views on with President Hafiz al-Asad.

Mr Gandhi and Mr al-Zu'bi then left to Tishrin palace, residence of the great guest. President Hafiz al-Asad and his wife welcomed the great guest and his wife at the entrance of the palace. Then Al-Asad and Gandhi held a meeting attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Ambassador to India Muhammad Khadir, Indian Minister of State for external Affairs Natwar Singh, and the delegation accompanying Mr Gandhi.

Gandhi Sees Al-Asad, Al-Zu'bi

JN0406163688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT Jun 88

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi met before noon today with Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian ambassador to India, and the Indian state minister for foreign affairs. The delegation accompanying Gandhi also attended.

At 1300 today, the Indian prime minister and his delegation paid a courtesy call on al-Zu'bi. Later, an official round of talks was held with Prime Minister al-Zu'bi leading the Syrian delegation and Gandhi the Indian team. On the Indian side the talks were also attended by the state minister for foreign affairs, the assistant state minister for foreign afairs, the Indian charge d'affaires and Gandhi's delegation. On the Syrian side the talks were also attended by Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister; Muhammad Salman, information minister; Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr Sabah Baqjaji, state ministewr for planning; Nasir Qaddur, state minister for foreign affairs; and Muhammad Khadr, Syria's ambasssador to Indian.

At the outset of the session, the prime minister welcomed Gandhi emphasizing that the visit marks an important step on the road to developing and deepening bilateral cooperation. Al-Zu'bi explained the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Syria's position, and its case for an authoritative UN-sponsored international conference to be attended by all the parties concerned. The prime minister also outlined Syria's policies on issues of shared interest. The sides discussed bilateral ties in economic and cultural areas, and agreed on the formation of technical committes to follow up this cooperation.

The Indian prime minister expressed his thanks for the hospitality and cordiality accorded him and his delegation noting the long standing ties with Syria. His visit to Syria, added Gandhi, is a good opportunity to further foster ties. He said he highly appreciates Syria's constant stand on regional problems and its clear vision on these problems, particularly its role in Lebanon and support for peoples' liberation movements. Gandhi expressed his country's desire to see economic and cultural ties with Syria further increased and expressed through pacts and agreements. [passage omitted]

'Closed' Meeting Held

JN0406181288 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1735 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] This evening His excellency President Hafiz al-Asad held a closed meeting at the presidential place with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Foreign Ministers Meet

JN0406182188 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] A meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry today between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Natwar Singh, Indian state minister of foreign affairs, with members of the Indian delegation attending. Nasir Qaddur, state minister for foreign affairs, also attended. They discussed how to increase cooperation between Syria and India and reviewed Mideast developments, including the Palestinian uprising. The situation in the Indian subcontinent and the Nonaligned Movement's role on the international scene were also discussed.

Gandhi on PLO, Punjab

BK0506033088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] India and Syria have called for an international conference, with the participation of PLO, for finding a comprehensive solution to the Palestine problem. Both the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Syrian president, Mr al-Asad, said such a conference should be sponsored by the United Nations. The call came at a banquet hosted by President al-Asad in Damascus. The issue was (?discussed) during the marathon talks, lasting more than three hours. The two leaders urged for the speedy end to the Iran-Iraq conflict.

In his address, Mr Gandhi said an Arab consensus is necessary for ensuring victory of the Palestine cause. He said Syria has a key role to play in forging such a consensus and welcomed the recent Syrian-PLO contacts.

In his speech, President al-Asad highly appreciated India's firm stand in support of the Palestinians and the liberation of Arab territories occupied by Israel.

Both the leaders referred to the Afghan problem and said the terms of the Geneva agreement must be implemented fully.

AIR special correspondent (Dupesh Romik), accompanying the prime minister, said it is a very significant gesture of President al-Asad to host a banquet. Our correspondent says the first round of talks between the two leaders reflected similarity of views on several issues.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi apprised his host of India's efforts in improving its relations with its neighbors. He said Pakistan's action of aiding Punjab terrorists tends to vitiate bilateral relations. He pointed out the action of Islamabad is against the Simla Agreement, under which both the countries had decided not to interfere in the internal affairs of the other country and sort out outstanding problems through discussions. Mr Gandhi said India views with utmost seriousness the Pakistani actions.

The Syrian leader appreciated India's role at the United Nations and in the Non Aligned Movement.

The delegations of the two countries met separately for more than two hours. Our correspondent, (Rustan Solde), reporting from Damascus says, the discussions were mainly centered on new areas of economic cooperation, particularly technical collaboration. Pakistan's help to Punjab terrorists also figured during the talks.

The Indian delegation was led by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, while the Syrian side by the foreign minister, Mr Faruq al Shar'.

Al-Asad Banquet Speech

JN0506073988 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 2006 4 Jun 88

[Speech delivered by President Hafiz al-Asad at a dinner banquet held in honor of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Qandhi in Damascus on 4 June—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellency Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India; Mrs Gandhi; Ladies and Gentlemen: With great pleasure, I welcome, in my name and on behalf of my wife, our two dear guests, His Excellency Rajiv Gandhi and Mrs Gandhi, as well as the esteemed members of the Indian delegation. I wish them a pleasant stay in our country. I seize this opportunity to salute, in the presence of Gandhi, the great Indian people who are linked to the Syrian Arab people by warm ties of friendship and fruitful cooperation.

Mr Prime Minister, we view with admiration the efficiency and wisdom with which you managed India's affairs following the tragic circumstances in which you assumed the leadership responsibilities and which also resulted in the materialization of accomplishments under your leadership.

The ties binding our two peoples date back to old times. They are ties binding two countries which, since the dawn of history, have been cradles of great civilizations which, through their interactions and interblending, have enriched other civilizations, and each other, throughout man's life on earth. Cultural, Intellectual, and trade ties have been forged between our two peoples since time immemorial.

In this regard, I would like to refer to the large number of India nationals whose origins trace back to Syrian ancestors who, long ago, left for India. To the best of my knowledge, they are citizens faithful to the homeland in which they were born and where they are settled. They also play a remarkable role in the various aspects of life in India.

After the independence of Syria and India, bilateral ties were strengthened and bilateral cooperation expanded. Both Syria and India are founding and active members of the Nonaligned Movement and AAPSO. Within the framework of these two organizations, we have adopted joint stands toward several international issues. The struggle against colonialism, imperialism, and racial discrimination represents a significant part of these stands. In this regard, we note with great appreciation the stands of the great leader Mahatma Gandhi, as well as his glorious struggle against racial discrimination in South Africa. Your grandfather Jawahar Lal Nehru and your mother Indira Gandhi continued to advocate this stand with enthusiasm and determination. We would also like to indicate that Sryia was at the forefront of the states which effected a complete break with the racist South African regime and that it is currently at the forefront of the struggle being waged against the dangers posed by the racist Zionist regime ruling in Israel.

Syria and India have adopted a joint stand toward the grave menace which jeopardizes life on earth; namely, the menace of a nuclear catastrophe and the danger which threatens world peace because of the hegemony imposed by rich countries on many of the resources of less rich and poor states. This requires a new world economic order with justice and equality among all states and allows the peoples of these states to reap the fruits of their labor and exploit their natural resources in a manner that brings development and progress.

Mr Prime Minister, we appreciate India's efforts and your personal endeavors regarding disarmament, the attempts to prevent nuclear warfare, the North-South dialogue, and also regarding the efforts to find a just economic world order. We view with great interest the special UN General Assembly session which is being held this month to discuss disarmament. We hope it will achieve the results anticipated by the world's people.

Mr Prime Minister, our faith in friendship is genuine. Friendship and cooperation among people constitute the exemplary means and solid basis for sound relations among countries, and contribute to spreading justice and peace worldwide.

Your visit to Damascus is a good opportunity to become personally acquainted, to entrench the trust we have for each other, to pursue work for enhancing the relations of friendship and cooperation which exist between the SAR and the Republic of India, and to exchange viewpoints on matters of interest to both our people and to mankind.

We are aware of your interest in the state of affairs in the Arab region. The perpetuation of this state of affairs poses a threat to world peace. We highly value India's firm stands in support of the struggle we are waging to liberate the Arab territories Israel had occupied through aggression, and to acknowledge the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on the soil of their homeland.

The Palestinian cause is the one which has brought about the Arab-Zionist conflict. This cause as well as the wars, crises, losses in life, and destruction it entailed are the result of the colonialist and imperialist scheme to impose hegemony on this region and of the conformance of the objectives of this scheme with the objectives of Zionism which seeks to establish a racist, colonialist state from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Zionism began its invasion of Palestine under cover of the desire to find a home for Jews who had been persecuted in Europe and the false claim that they want peace. Zionism later appeared as it is—an expansionist power and an extension of the colonialist and imperialist forces which support the Zionist invasion and encourage it to spread in the Arab territories.

Syria is committed to its pan-Arab role. It also believes that the Palestinian cause is the Arab nation's cause, that defending it is a pan-Arab duty, and that the Zionist invasion imperils all Arab countries. From this premise, Syria has embraced the Palestinian cause, and defended it with all available means. Syria will continue to defend it and to confront the Zionist occupation of the Arab land wherever there is such an occupation. Unless the question of Palestine is resolved in a manner guaranteeing the rights of its people, peace cannot be restored to this region because the failure to resolve it in a just manner would mean the continuation of aggression and occupation, and this is something which we will not accept.

Confrontation of the occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights, the Palestinian Arab people's uprising in their occupied territories, and the ongoing resistance in southern Lebanon are natural results of the continuation of occupation. This resistance is a national duty that every people whose land was occupied have practiced and which is being practiced by the Arab people on the Golan, in Southern Lebanon, and in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The aggressors must understand that the methods of repression and barbaric oppression will not succeed in dampening the people's spirit of resistance and will not succeed in imposing surrender on them.

The aggressors seek through political maneuvers or through the threat of force to implement the policy of fait accompli. They thus forget that history's lessons

teach us that the peoples' force inevitably defeats aggression, no matter how long it lasts, and that the peoples' will is stronger than the aggressors' weapons. Victory will ultimately be for the peoples who defend their rights.

We, the Arabs, call for peace and work to attain it. For peace to be attained, the aggression must end, and the Israeli occupation of the Arab territory must recede.

The road to peace in this region is clear and is represented in the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions through a UN-sponsored international peace conference that has powers with the participation of all the concerned parties, including the PLO. Zionism and its protectors are daily confirming that their talk about peace is mere words for consumption in the international forums and is intended to deceive world public opinion. The peace they are talking about has a weird concept based on invasion, occupation, and usurpation of others' rights on the pretext of realizing Israel's security. This concept will turn the world into a world dominated by the law of the jungle.

Mr Prime Minister, the sufferings experienced by fraternal Lebanon have also surfaced because of the Zionist ambitions harbored against Arab territory. Through its repeated aggresions against Lebanon, especially through the 1982 invasion, Israel attempted to impose on this fraternal state a humiliating agreement that would have divested it of its sovereignty and turned it into an Israeli protectorate. It was forced to retreat because of Syria's confrontation of the invasion, because of its foiling of the objectives of that invasion, and also because of the Lebanese people's resistance to the invading aggressors—resistance which has continued up to this day.

One of Israel's objectives is to divide Lebanon and turn it into a satellite statelet. Syria supported the fraternal Lebanese people in their resistance to the Israeli objectives and in their efforts to preserve the unity of Lebanon—land and people. We have no doubt that Lebanon will regain its vigor and its secure life once Israeli interventions in Lebanese affairs cease. Syria will continue to support Lebanon in its resistance to the Israeli occupation and the Israeli intervention. It will also remain a source of support for its sons to help them acheive national reconciliation and bring about security and peace in its territory. Syria has not failed in past years, nor will it fail now or in the future, to provide the support that is requested by the fraternal Lebanese people.

As for the protracted Iraq-Iran war, Syria's stand has continued to stipulate since the eruption of this war that the outbreak of the war was a grave mistake. In the beginning, we sought to end it when ending it was easier. Now that it has continued, caused so much death and destruction, and brought about the intervention of foreign fleets, our efforts have centered on preventing a spillover of this war, pending the creation of the suitable circumstances which will help end this war.

The remaining problems being experienced by the third world are remnants of the colonialist era and results of the imperialist forces' schemes which seek to impose hegemony on the world regions. In accordance with these schemes, world imperialism supports the Zionist and racist forces and their like and use them to achieve their objectives. Hence, the third world countries must display solidarity and strengthen their relations, as this will result in the creation of a force of wellbeing motivated by the principles advocated by the Nonaligned movement and enshrined in the UN Charter. Such a force will also support the UN role, thereby positively contributing toward creating a world which is free of exploitation, aggression, and war. Besides, the solidarity and cooperation among third world states will qualify them to enter the 21st century with their status enhanced and more capable to confront the challenges which will face them in the new century and in the remaining years of this century.

Mr Prime Minister, I would like to voice my confidence that your current visit will largely contribute to enhancing the Syrian-Indian relations in all spheres and also to achieving the noble objectives of mankind, foremost among which is the attainment of world peace which is based on justice.

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask that you stand in honor of Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mrs Gandhi, wishing them continued good health and happiness and the friendly Indian people continued progress and prosperity. May the Syrian-Indian freindship be continually enhanced.

Gandhi Addresses Banquet

JN0506085388 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 2021 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Speech by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at a dinner banquet hosted in his honor in Damascus on 4 June—read by announcer]

[Text] Mr President, Mrs al-Asad, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: We thank you for your warm welcome and generous hospitality. We thank you for the cordiality that your _ ple have shown to us. We greet you as old friends, as colleagues in the progress of Asia, and fellow colleagues in the Nonaligned Movement.

To be in Syria means to be in one of the major sources of human civilization. To be present in Damascus means to be present in the most ancient city in the world. The very air we breathe here smells of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the noble Aramaic language, and the seafarer Phoenicians. This is the land of Palmyra, the place where East and West first met and enriched the unity of the human race. Our contacts go back to Seleucus Nicator, who established a Greek community in Syria. He married his

daughter to the great Indian Emperor (Chandra Gotamauria). And shortly after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, Saint Thomas of Syria landed on the southwestern coast of India. The most ancient Christian community in India is proud to call its subjects Syrian Christians.

Seven hundred years after the arrival of Saint Thomas, Muhammad ibn al-Qasim sailed to India from Syria to convey to it the message of Islam. In 1925, two leaders of the Indian National Congress visited Syria. They are Hakim Ajmal Khan and Dr Ansari. In a report to the Congress Party, they described the tyranny of the French and their total denial of the Syrian people's basic rights during the mandate period.

On the great uprising which Syria witnessed during those years, Jawaharlal Nehru wrote the following to his daughter, my mother, Indira Gandhi: Despite the crushing of the uprising by the powerful French military machine, the great sacrifices of the Syrians have not been in vain. They have established their right to freedom and the world has become aware of their mettle.

In this 40th year of our independence, allow me to pay tribute to the encouragement which our struggle for freedom derived from the endeavors you exerted to free yourselves. Our strugglers view the struggle to liberate Palestine as part of our struggle for national independence. This is because we believe that as long as there is repression anywhere in the world, freedom would be endangered everywhere. In 1936, Jawaharlal Nehru said: The Arab struggle against British imperialism in Palestine, which is just like India's fight for independence, is part of the struggle of this world.

Mahatma Gandhi announced that Palestine belongs to the Palestinians in the same sense as England belongs to the English or France to the French. India realized its freedom but was divided. Hardly a few weeks passed after our independence when the partition of Palestine was presented for discussion. India opposed this partition because as far as we were concerned, the issue involved a basic moral problem. Must nations and peoples be partitioned by narrow walls, or should a nation include all the people who live on a certain territory, giving due respect to the diversity of religion, language, and culture, and uniting its sons in a larger allegiance, an allegiance to a common homeland?

To answer these questions, we delved deep into our history. The basic lesson the Indian heritage taught us was to glorify diversity in our country and not to regard the diversity of religion, language, and culture as weakness but as the greatest single source of our civilization's strength. Over our 5,000 years of history, we knew political instability, economic perils, foreign invasion, and colonialist domination. Yet, our culture survived all these circumstances because it possessed enough confidence in its ability to accomodate the best from abroad without losing its original Indian nature.

While your culture is a mixture of your ancient heritage, the legacy of the Greeks, the Romans, the Byzantines, and the Omayyad Caliphate, our culture is also a mixture of what the Dravidians have, what the Aryans brought in, what the Greeks gave, what the Arabs taught, what we received from China and Central Asia, and what we imbibed from the Turks, the Persians, and Europeans. We are now proud that we have dozens of languages and hundreds of dialects, that we are a reservoir of all the main religions in the world and a store of several cultures. All of our many races together constitute the Indian people.

The opposite picture in this world is manifested in dividing humanity into groups. This monopoly led to the partition of Palestine. The Arabs and Jews who lived in amity for centuries have been separated. Estrangement was forced upon them. Hundreds of thousands were deriven from their homes just because they were Arabs and hundreds of thousands emigrated from their homeland because of fear. In order to realize justice for the few, injustice was imposed on the many. The land which was the cradle of three of the greatest world religions was exclusively given to some and was declared taboo to others. As a result, your region has been reaping a bitter harvest for 4 decades of violence, hatred, oppression, and suffering.

There should be a limit to this and a solution must be found. West Asia needs peace based on justice, and a lasting, just peace is an essential element in our struggle to realize a world system based on rejecting violence, on magnanimity and prosperity. An honorable settlement of the Palestinian problem should be effected. The crux of this settlement is that the Palestinians must have a state on their own homeland. This is one of their inalienable rights. Without Palestinian self-determination, there can be no peace in the region.

The illegal occupation of the Golan Heights and other Arab territories must end. The abominable events, such as the ruthless destruction of Al-Qunaytirah should not be repeated. The horrible reality of Israel's acts of repression and barbarism against the Arab people in the occupied territory were shown on television in millions of Indian homes. Television also told the Indians of the defiance and courage of the Palestinan people.

The triumph of the Palestinian people is inevitable and the Arabs' agreement on this issue is indispensible. Syria has a basic role to play in effecting this agreement. We welcome the recent contacts between Syria and the PLO and are looking forward to the birth of a joint Arab plan of action. Peace in West Asia cannot be realized through separate solutions and partial measures. A settlement cannot be realized unless it is comprehensive, ensuring peace in accordance with just and durable provisions. In order to reach such a settlement, negotiations should be conducted in an interational conference under UN auspices with the participation of all parties to the dispute, including the PLO.

The tragic war between Iran and Iraq, the two fraternal countries in the Nonaligned Movement, continues mercilessly, causing grave losses in human life and a quick exhaustion of the material resources which could have been used for the prosperity of the two countries. The conflict should end with all speed and all differences should be settled by negotiations. We support the UN efforts in this regard and believe in consultations rather than confrontation.

Let us all be wary. West Asia is a sensitive region. Powers from outside are exploiting the Gulf war to expand the presence of their navies and to fuel the war by arms shipments. It is vital for the security of West Asia to preserve the region from the dire consequences of the external rivalries and interference. We, the members of the Nonaligned Movement, should redouble our efforts to strengthen the nonaligned forces in the region.

In that part of the world where India is situated, important developments took place. Most important among them were the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan. These agreements provide the basis for the restoration of peace and normal life in that conflict-torn country. We aspire for the emergence of a stable structure for rule in Afghanistan, based particularly on the Afghan people's aspirations and Afghanistan's firm commitment to nonalignment. In accordance with the provisions of the agreement, every foreign interference in the affairs of that country should be completely halted. But, unfortunately, the provisions of the agreements are being violated. We say that they should be respected. We are deeply concerned about the future of Afghanistan, which is situated next to us and with which we have had close relations since the dawn of history.

The INF agreement and the Moscow summit are the beginning of the nuclear disarmament process. We hope that this process will be promoted by holding an agreement in the near future to reduce the nuclear arsenals by half. Therefore, we hope to see speedy and firm moves toward a complete destruction of nuclear weapons. We can view the INF agreement as being a real historic beginning only when this target is achieved.

Mr President, under your leadership Syria has attained political independence and a splendid progress in all fields. Progress expands the scope of cooperation. Syria and India have initiated meaningful beginnings. However, there still are many untapped opportunities. We share common objectives; unity, freedom, socialism, and secularism.

Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like you to join me in wishing His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Mrs Anisah al-Asad good health and happiness, progress and prosperity for the Syrian people, and lasting friendship between our two countries.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Departs for UN Disarmament Conference

LD0306170088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, left for New York this evening to take part in the 30th session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament. He is heading a high-ranking delegation. [passage omitted]

He was seen off at Kabul International Airport by Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, the prime minister-designate; Lieutenant General Muhammad Rafi'; and Muhammad 'Aziz Negahban, minister of civil aviation.

Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, the prime minister-designate; Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Saleh Muhammad Ziray, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Lt Gen Muhammad Rafi'; and assistant head of the United Nations in Kabul accompanied Esteemed Najibullah to the aircraft.

Members of the high-ranking delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan taking part at the special session of the UN General Assembly concerning disarmament are: Esteemed 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister; Shah Muhammad Dost, ambassador and permanent representative of the Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations; and Eshaq Tokhi, first aide to the president.

Meets Gorbachev in Moscow

LD0506090088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Moscow, June 4, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, has met today with Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Mikhail Gorbachev briefed Najibullah on the results of the talks held with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Moscow. The Afghan leader spoke highly of that meeting, which has been a major international event opening up a prospect of a further improvement of the international situation.

Najibullah and Mikhail Gorbachev exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan and around it, stressed the significance of the policy pursued by the Government of Afghanistan of putting an end to bloodshed and opening an intra-Afghan dialogue. The sides have expressed their mutual wish to develop further broad cooperation in various fields, to find ways and forms of its further deepening.

Mikhail Gorbachev wished Najibullah success in his trip to New York for the third special session on disarmament of the U.N. General Assembly, which he is going to attend.

The meeting with the participation of Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR foreign minister, and Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, proceeded in a warm, frank and friendly atmosphere.

Leaves Moscow for New York

LD0606073188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] Moscow, June 5, BAKHTAR—Afghan President Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, who was staying in Moscow, left for New York today.

He will take part in 3rd special UN General Assembly session on disarmament.

Wakil Holds Talks With Perez de Cuellar at UN

LD0406215688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] On the afternoon of 2 June, 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, who is in New York to participate in the third special disarmament session of the UN General Assembly, met with Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations.

During the meeting Wakil thanked the UN secretary general for implementing the Geneva agreements and for the measures taken and the efforts made to provide economic and social aid to resettle the returnees. The foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan expressed his concern at the violation of the Geneva agreements by the Government of Pakistan. He said that interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan from Pakistani territory and the existence of the opposition group bases and their sending arms and equipment to Afghanistan are all in contravention of the provisions of the Geneva agreements and should stop immediately. The Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, taking into account the situation, will draw conclusions and take appropriate actions regarding the time span of the troop withdrawal.

The report adds that 'Abdul Wakil met with the foreign ministers of Uruguay and Burundi and with the head of the Yemen Arab Republic delegation. During the meeting, talks were conducted on the Geneva agreements, national reconciliation, regional and international issues, and issues of mutual interest.

UN Notified of Pakistani Violations of Accords

12th Violation Reported

LD0306185188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's office which coordinates with UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reported this afternoon that the Republic of Afghanistan has given the UN delegation a memorandum on the 12th obvious violation by Pakistan of the Geneva accords.

The memorandum gives accurate and comprehensive information on the date and place of the circumstances of six violations by Pakistan. The memorandum asks the delegation to immediately assess its contents and inform the Afghan authorities.

13th Pakistani Violation

LD0406175788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] The Afghan Foreign Ministry's office that coordinates with the UN good offices mission reports that the 13th memorandum of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning Pakistani violations of the Geneva accords was handed over to the mission this evening, 4 June 1988.

The report adds that in this memorandum, complete and accurate information was provided to the UN good offices mission on five cases of obvious violations of the Geneva accords by Pakistan. A request was made that, based on the documents of the Geneva accords, the violations should be assessed and the Afghan authorities informed of the results.

14th Memo on Violations

LD0506172688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] The Afghan Foreign Ministry's liaison office, with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] reports that this evening the 14th memorandum from the Republic of Afghanistan on seven new violations of the Geneva accords by Pakistan was handed over to the delegation of the UN good offices mission in Kabul.

In the memorandum, full information has been provided concerning the date, place, and type of violation, and it has been requested that the UN delegation assess these violations, based on paragraph seven, document four of the Geneva accords. The result of the assessment should be handed over immediately to the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Pakistani Allegations of Shellings 'Baseless'

LD0506084588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 4, BAKHTAR—The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today and the following was conveyed to him.

The charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Afghanistan was recently summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

He has been told that as if [as received] the artillery forces of Afghanistan on May 16 and 29, 1988 attacked Kangra areas located 10 kilometers away from Ghasht in Bajaur Agency as well as Baghrai, Kariz and Kamal Pigat [last two place names as received] areas located in Chaman. Also on May 12 a demonstration was staged in front of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul lasting for ten minutes.

The concerned authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan, after all-sided assessments and investigations consider these allegations of the Pakistani authorities concerning the shelling of that areas as entirely null and void. The peaceful demonstraton of the Kabul citizens before the Pakistani Embassy emanates from the feelings and wrath and indignation of Afghans against the intervention of Pakistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and was staged without formal information of Afghan authorities. During the demonstration no damage was inflicted on the Pakistani Embassy.

The Republic of Afghanistan considers these allegations of the Pakistani authorities totally baseless and refute them.

The Republic of Afghanistan is hopeful that the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan not to [as received] hamper the strivings of the Afghan side for the normalisation of relations between the two countries through such allegations.

Pakistani Police Said Impeding Refugees' Return

LD0506101688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 4, BAKHTAR—An Afghan refugee was killed and five other severely wounded as a result of a clash occurred between the refugees and security forces of Pakistan in Kurram Agency, reports reaching BAKHTAR say.

The clash occurred when a number of refugees decided to leave their camps for home. Becoming aware of their decision the Pakistani security forces tried to prevent them. As a result of the refugees firm resistance, the Pakistani police opened fire against them.

Twenty two of the refugees, arrested by the Pakistan's security forces, were taken to an unknown destination, the reports adds.

Italian President's Special Envoy Leaves
LD0606083088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 5, BAKHTAR—Bruno Bottai, special envoy of the Italian president and general secretary of the Foreign Ministry of Italy, left Kabul for his country after discharging his mission.

Muhammed Sakhi Daneshjo, Foreign Ministry adviser, and charge d'affaires of Italian Embassy in Kabul bade farewell to him.

Najibullah Issues Decree on Vice Presidents
LD0306170388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] The president's office has informed BAKHTAR that Decree No 298, dated 3 June 1988, has been issued by Afghan President Najibullah.

Decree concerning the appointment of vice presidents of Afghanistan:

In accordance with Paragraph 8 of Article 87 of the Afghan Constitution, the following have been appointed: Esteemed 'Abdurrahim Hatif [member of Revolutionary Council Presidium], Lieutenant General Muhammad Rafi' [defense minister], Esteemed 'Abdulhamid Mohtat [deputy prime minister], and Esteemed 'Abdul Wahid Sorabi [higher and vocational education minister]. The Meli Shura will decide on these appointments at its first meeting.

[Signed] President Najibullah

Appointments Approved
LD0506162588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Excerpt] A joint session of the Meli Shura [National Assembly] was held this morning at its headquarters with the participation of members of the Wolasi Jirgah and the Senate. The meeting was chaired by Dr Khalil Ahmad Abawi, chairman of the Wolasi Jirgah.

The BIA reports that during the session, which was attended by two-thirds of the members of the Meli Shura, the issue of appointing vice-presidents was discussed.

During the session Decree No 289, dated 3 June 1988, issued by Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, was read out by the Wolasi Jirgah secretary. The decree is issued in accordance with Item 8, Article 81 of the Republic of Afghanistan Constitution, and covers the happointment of the following as vice presidents: Esteemed 'Abdurrahim Hatif; Esteemed Lieutenant General Muhammad Rafi'; Esteemed 'Abdul Hamid Mohtat; and Esteemed 'Abdul Wahid Sorabi.

The session unanimously approved the appointments of the vice presidents.

Then, the chairman of the Wolasi Jirgah congratulated the vice-presidents on their appointments and wished great successes from almighty God for the fulfillment of these duties entrusted to them.

At the end of the session, on behalf of vice presidents, estemed 'Abdurrahim Hatif expressed thanks for the great trust of the Meli Shura.

He pledged to use all his efforts and energy toward the construction of a prosperous society and for the total implementation of the national reconciliation policy. 'Abdurrahim Hatif prayed for success from almighty God for the members of the Meli Shura in their work toward the full implementation of the national reconciliation policy. [passage omitted]

Soviets Airlifting Troops Out of Qandahar
BK0306160488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, June 3 (AFP)—Soviet planes have been evacuating troops from the air base at the southern city of Qandahar, where rebels and government forces have been fighting for several days, informed sources said here Friday.

Transport planes have been flying the troops out for the past three days, the sources said in this city near the border with southern Afghanistan.

It was not known where the troops had been stationed, but analysts said they could be among the 10,000 Soviet soldiers who had been posted to Qandahar Province or may have come from the eastern garrison towns of Ghazni and Gardeyz.

The evacuation of the two garrison towns began Wednesday by the south rather than via Kabul to the north, where rebels have taken position on several roads.

The Soviet Union has withdrawn 10,000 men from Afghanistan since the Geneva accords took effect on May 15, the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN Friday quoted U.N. officials monitoring the operation as saying in New York.

The officials were quoted as saying that at the current rate, the Soviet Union would have pulled out about 60,000 men by August 15, more than half of the 100,300 soldiers it says it has in Afghanistan.

The April accords require the withdrawal of half the Soviet troops by August 15 and a total pull-out by February 15, 1989. Western diplomats estimated the Soviet force in Afghanistan to have been 115,000 before the pull-out.

Western sources in Islamabad last week estimated 8,000 men had been pulled out, while Moscow said it had pulled out 9,500 at the end of the first week.

Fighting between rebels and Afghan troops continued in the center of Qandahar, Afghanistan's second largest city, sources said here. Western diplomatic sources said a third of the city was in the hands of the rebels.

The rebels said mujahidin were also fighting government troops at Spin Buldak, 100 kilometers south of Qandahar, near the Pakistan border.

They said 1,800 rebels were involved in the fighting, which had left 18 Afghan soldiers dead and 32 wounded between Sunday and Tuesday. They said their losses in the same period were three dead and 12 wounded.

The Afghan Air Force has dropped leaflets on Spin Buldak calling on the rebels to stop fighting because "the war is over and the Soviets are leaving."

Analysts said control of Spin Buldak would give the mujahidin direct access to Qandahar by road and would allow rapid resupply of arms from Pakistan.

The rebels said several militiamen stationed on the Pakistani border crossed into Pakistan Wednesday with their families to join the resistance.

Among them, they said, were troops of Major Esma'il Ullah Muslim, commander of an Afghan militia in Qandahar Province, a mujahidin who joined Kabul in 1985.

Rebel Leader To Give Field Commanders More Say
BK0606031788 Hong Kong AFP in English 0302 GMT 6 Jun 88

[By Alain Boebion]

[Text] Islamabad, June 6 (AFP)—A moderate faction in the Afghan seven-party mujahidin alliance says it will give rebel commanders a greater role when its leader takes over as head of the resistance on June 15.

The moderate National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA), led by Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani—who becomes head of the Peshawar-based alliance in a routine rotation—believes it should acquire a popular base, ensured by opening up the door to the rebel commanders who have been doing the actual fighting for the past nine years.

"We must count on them for the future and seek their advice," an NIFA spokesman said here Sunday, adding that Mr. Gaylani was ready to leave the alliance and join the guerrillas on the ground if his demands were not met.

The moderates acknowledge that the attainment of their goals largely depends on Pakistan, and especially President Ziaul Haq, who backs the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami faction led by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar.

Mr. Gaylani recognises the uncertainties of his position and the influence wielded by Pakistan, which supports the rebels politically and materially and advocates the fall of Afghan President Najibullah and his replacement by an Islamic government.

Gen. Ziaul Haq gave Mr. Gaylani an apparently warm welcome at a reception in the Italian Embassy here Sunday, signalling "a certain understanding" between the two men, diplomatic sources said. But they added that they were skeptical of "the degree of cordiality."

Mr. Gaylani's efforts to give the rebel commanders more say will, however, depend on how much support they are ready to give him, observers said.

The moderates and the highest-ranking rebel commanders—including Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Esma'il Khan of Jamiyat-e Eslami, 'Abdul Haq and Amin Wardak of the moderate Hezb-e Eslami faction led by Yunis Khalis, and Mr. Hikmatyar's fundamentalists—are divided on how or even if to take Kabul, on whether or not to attack Soviet troops pulling out of Afghanistan and on the formation of a provisional government in "liberated territory."

The idea of a government in "liberated territory," supported by Islamabad, has been rejected by the moderates, who say the alliance will break down if such an idea is pursued.

An attack on Kabul is opposed by commanders but favoured by radical Pakistan-backed leaders.

'Abdul Haq, the Hezb-e Eslami (Khalis faction) leader of guerrilla operations in Kabul, says this would be the very last thing to do as "we must protect the population and not destroy the capital."

As for attacking Soviet troops, who began withdrawing on May 15, again there are divisions, observers said.

Commander Mas'ud, who last week took control of the entire Panjsher Valley north of Kabul which opens out onto the strategic Salang highway, is reported to have agreed for the moment not to attack Soviet troops returning home along the road, Western diplomats said.

But Mr. Hikmatyar insists that his men will attack withdrawing Soviet troops.

Sources close to the United Nations Good Offices Mission to Afghanistan and Pakistan in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Geneva accords, said that Soviet commanders were trying to arrange similar local truces elsewhere, notably with Esma'il Khan in the Herat region in northwest Afghanistan close to the Iranian border, to ensure a safe pull-out.

Internal Discord Among 'Extremists' Reported

LD0406182588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Internal disagreements among the extremists have caused armed clashes among them in some areas of Bamian Province.

According to the BAKHTAR military section, recent armed clashes between hostile groups in suburbs of [name indistinct] and Sayghan Districts in Bamian Province resulted in a total of 18 people being killed from among the two sides.

The report adds that similar clashes resulting from the distribution of property plundered from the people also took place in areas around Yakhab Kowtal and Panjab Districts, causing great losses of life.

Government, Rebel Operations, Clashes Reported

'Extremist' Groups 'Crushed'

LD3105225488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 May 88

[Text] At the request of the people of Faryab and with their cooperation, an extremist group was crushed yesterday at Qeysar district. A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that as a result of this operation, which was carried out with the direct cooperation of the people of Qeysar district, a number of warmongering elements were crushed and a rocket launcher together with hundreds of rounds of ammunition and four assorted weapons were seized. The extremists' hide-outs were also destroyed.

According to another report, another 15-man terrorist group which was disrupting the peaceful life of Shakar Darreh district, Kabul province, by engaging in subversive activities was crushed by the Armed Forces. Two weapons stores belonging to the extremists were eliminated.

'Extremists' Attack Khowst

LD0406170588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] The criminal extremists have fired heavy weaponry on areas around Khowst District, causing material damage and loss of lives.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that as a result of this savage action by the extremists, seven of our compatriots were martyred and nine injured. The injured were transported to a hospital immediately and their condition is improving.

The report adds that in the course of this attack, a mosque in the area around Khowst district also received damage.

Kabul Forces Abandon Garrison

LD0406185588 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Mashhad, June 4, IRNA—Afghan Army forces evacuated a garrison in southwest Afghanistan two days ago, according to mujahidin sources.

Afghan mujahidin announced that an infantry battalion stationed in a border military camp in Farah Province moved to Lash-e Joveyn Governorate under escort of armored units.

The move takes place simultaneous with the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan in order to place Kabul regime forces on more strategic points.

Sources said that Afghan Army intends to regroup its forces and station them at the biggest Soviet air base in western Afghanistan.

According to reports the local people have occupied the base after Soviet evacuation and Afghan mujahidin now have a better advantage in Afghanistan.

Rebel Weapons Convoy 'Crushed'

LD0406170088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section reports that a convoy of arms and ammunition belonging to extremist groups, which was going to pass through the areas around Gowshtah District, Nangarhar Province, was crushed yesterday by the country's Armed Forces.

The report adds that in the course of these operations, which took place in the region of (Lowyah Tanga), Gowshtah District, the arms and ammunition belonging to the extremist groups were destroyed and the [word indistinct] of the convoy was crushed.

Attacks on Zabol, Nangarhar

LD0406063188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Elements belonging to the armed criminal extremist groups yesterday attacked with heavy weapons Qalat city, Zabol Province. As a result, two compatriots were martyred and one was severely wounded. According to a report by the BIA military correspondent, the security forces of Zabol Province began searches in the suburbs of

Qalat city in order to prevent the subversive activities of the extremists and destroyed a [words indistinct] unit along with ammunition belonging to the criminal armed extremists which were to be used to attack Qalat city.

Engaging in treacherous and inhuman acts, the extremist criminal elements have (?martyred) three of our faithful compatriots. According to a BIA report, they planted a mine along the road between Margow and Ghani Kheyl, Shinwar district, Nangarhar Province, which blew up a vehicle. The passengers were going shopping.

Bangladesh

Government Dissolves Election Reforms Commission

BK0406161588 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] The government has dissolved the Election Reforms Commission. A notification issued from the president's secretariat says the earlier notification of 27 March announcing the formation of the commission has been cancelled. Through the earlier notification, a one-member Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] Election Reforms Commission was set up with Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury.

Debate on Islamic Bill Resumes Sunday 5 Jun

BK0506074088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0718 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Dhaka, June 5 (AFP)—Parliament here resumes debate Sunday of a bill making Islam Bangladesh's state religion as the opposition plans fresh protests against the legislation. The official BSS News Agency reported late Saturday that the debate, which began Tuesday, would resume Sunday.

Ruling Jatiya Party sources said the debate would continue as long as necessary, but added that a vote was expected this week.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's Jatiya Party tabled the bill as a constitutional amendment last month and as such it needs to get a two thirds majority in Parliament. The Jatiya Party has more than 250 of the 300 seats.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia began a two-day meeting of party leaders here Sunday to decide future strategy in its campaign to oust Mr. Ershad. The BNP opposes the bill.

The Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed has announced a five-day plan of agitation against Mr. Ershad, including demonstrations against the bill, beginning Sunday with protests in provincial towns and cities. The League plans a mass rally in Dhaka on Thursday.

On Saturday, about 5,000 professionals, including many leading lawyers, teachers, doctors and engineers held a rally in central Dhaka to protest against the bill, witnesses said. Saturday's rally was organised by an opposition-backed body, the Sammilita Peshajibi Sangram Parishad (Combined Action Council for Professionals). The professional groups reiterated their demand for the resignation of Mr. Ershad, who came to power in a 1982 coup, and cautioned that the nation would face a "dangerous situation" if the bill on Islam became law.

More than 86 percent of Bangladesh's 105 million people are Moslems.

The government considers the bill to be natural in a country with an overwhelmingly Moslem majority. The opposition describe it as redundant and fear it might revive communalism and encourage fundamentalists.

Sixteen opposition-dominated student groups have called for a nationwide student strike Monday to protest the bill.

Groups Protest Islamization

BK0206031588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, a coalition of 16 major students organizations has given a call for countrywide strike in all educational institutions today in protest against the government's move to declare Islam as the state religion. Addressing a big rally in Dhaka yesterday, student leaders asked the people to resist such a move at any cost. Condemning the Islamization move, teachers of Dhaka University have decided to take out a procession today in protest against the move.

Meanwhile, opposition members in Parliament, taking part in the discussion on the Islamization bill, alleged that the passage of the bill will generate communal feelings, threatening peace, stability, and harmony. They said if the proposed bill is passed, the fundamental rights of the minority groups will be curbed.

Fire Destroys Refugee Camp for Pakistanis

BK2805143388 Hong Kong AFP in English 0916 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Dhaka, May 28 (AFP)—A fire here has gutted about 2,500 thatched houses in a camp for Pakistani refugees, leaving more than 17,000 homeless, police and fire authority sources said Saturday.

The fire at Mirpur camp late Friday destroyed houses sheltering non-Bengali Bihari Moslems who have been waiting to go to Pakistan since the establishment of Bangladesh in what was East Pakistan in 1971.

Investigators are trying to establish the cause of the fire, which also damaged some local shops and factories, police said.

Local officials said the people left homeless were being temporarily sheltered in nearby schools and public buildings and provided with food and other assistance.

Foreign Minister Returns From Trip to E. Europe
BK3005062088 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury has said his discussions with the leaders in Warsaw and Prague were extremely useful and (?satisfactory). He was talking to newsmen on his return to Dhaka yesterday after a tour of the East European countries of Poland and Czechoslovakia. The visit was the first by a Bangladeshi foreign minister to the two Socialist countries in last 14 years.

Mr Chowdhury said that both Poland and Czechoslovakia were among the countries who extended their valuable support during the liberation war. [passage indistinct] The foreign minister also met the Polish and Czechoslovak presidents and briefed the two leaders on Bangladesh's position on global political and economic issues.

India

Demolition of Area Near Golden Temple Planned
BK0506160888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Demolition of buildings within a radius of 30 meters around the Golden Temple complex will be taken up on Tuesday under the temple area development plan. This was announced in a press statement issued by the Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, in New Delhi today. The first phase of the work is expected to be completed within 6 months. Later the entire 300-meter circle around the temple complex will be made free of all structures except the historical, religious, and strategic buildings.

The governor said the work will be done in accordance with the law and no building will be demolished without giving reasonable temporary alternative accommodation. Full compensation will be paid to every person whose property is taken possession of and demolished. He said the Punjab government will not act in haste and will ensure that no one is put to inconvenience. There will be no arbitrary or harsh action. He pointed out that the state government has plans to construct a modern underground shopping complex around the Golden Temple complex and have appropriate residential buildings in keeping with the architectural pattern of the area. Mr Ray appealed to all concerned not to pay heed to rumors regarding the demolition plan. A meeting is being held in Chandigarh tomorrow to give final touches to the plan.

The state government today announced that the tenants who are having one room will be given a relief of 500 rupees per month and those with two rooms 750 rupees. One thousand rupees will be paid to those having bigger accommodation on rent. The deputy commissioner of Amritsar told our correspondent that this compensation will continue to be paid until they are provided alternate permanent accommodation. To begin with, 122 houses will be allotted to the landlords who are being dislocated from the area. Another 858 houses will be ready by November. Temporary sheds are being allotted to business establishments.

The home minister today said that the government will not hand over control of the Golden Temple complex to the SGPC unless it agrees to all 10 points of the charter presented to it. Speaking to newsmen at Phagwara in Punjab, Mr Buta Singh ruled out dissolution of the SGPC saying that the government is only interested in the committee discharging its duties properly. Referring to the 10 points in the charter, he said the SGPC had earlier agreed to these points during discussion with the officials but later backed out. SGPC has been floundering in the discharge of its duties for the past 7 years and it will have to restore public confidence by ensuring that the acts of sacrilege are not repeated inside the Golden Temple complex.

Punjab 'Terrorist' Arrested; Journalist Killed
BK0406081188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] The Haryana police arrested a dreaded terrorist Sukhwant Singh alias Sukha in Kurukshetra District this morning. Two other terrorists managed to escape after a scuffle with the police party. The state director general of police, Mr H.R. Swan, told our Chandigarh correspondent that the arrested terrorist was wanted in a number of cases involving killings and dacoities [robberies]. He carried a reward of 30,000 rupees. One head constable was seriously injured when he was hit by a lathi [baton] on his head. Mr Swan said the terrorists came to Haryana with the motive of choosing targets for their violent activities.

In Amritsar, one more highly decomposed body has been recovered from the debris in the Golden Temple Complex this morning. With this, the total number of bodies recovered of the innocent people tortured and killed by terrorists has risen to 22.

Meanwhile, some terrorists shot at and seriously injured a farmer in a village Mathewal early this morning. The farmer was working in the fields when attacked. He was admitted to the Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital in a critical condition.

In Hoshiarpur city in Punjab, terrorists shot dead a journalist early this morning. According to an official spokesman, two scooter-borne terrorists came to the

office of Mr Pradhuman Singh and shot him dead. Mr Singh represented a number of Jullundur-based dailies and was also the district correspondent of All India Radio till a few years ago.

4 'Pakistani Intruders' Killed in Punjab

BK0506155688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Four Pakistani intruders and a terrorist have been killed in separate incidents in Punjab. Three of the five Pakistani intruders were killed in Dera Baba Nanak sector while they were trying to sneak into India today. The other two retreated. Another intruder was killed in Ferozepore District.

In Ludhiana District, a self-styled commander of the terrorist outfit, Gajmail Singh alias Chagga, was killed in an encounter with the security forces last night. One Chinese assault rifle and some ammunition were recovered.

Gandhi Leaves on 8-Day Foreign Tour 4 Jun

BK0406081688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] The prime minister is now on his way to the Syrian capital Damascus on the first leg of his 8-day tour which takes him to the Federal Republic of Germany, New York, and Hungary. Mr Rajiv Gandhi is accompanied by a high-level delegation which includes the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh.

Speaking to newsmen at Delhi Airport before departure, Mr Gandhi said the 6-nation peace initiative is looking for a change in the system of international relations. The subject will be discussed at the United Nations. Replying to a query, the prime minister said he was not disappointed by the outcome of the Moscow summit, though he would have liked more progress in the disarmament process.

Our correspondent says in Damascus Mr Gandhi will have wide-ranging discussions with the Syrian president, Mr al-Asad, on bilateral and regional issues. Mr Gandhi will begin his 3-day official visit to West Germany from Monday. He will reach New York on Wednesday and will pay a 2-day official visit to Hungary from the 10th before returning home.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Prayers Sermons

First Sermon on Piety

LD0306202988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 3 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Koranic passage omitted] During a previous discourse on social justice, understanding arrogance, and life among the oppressed, I covered the (?conflict) of the arrogant and the oppressed from the viewpoint of the Koran. Today, another undesirable and dangerous characteristic of the arrogant will be discussed in light of Koranic teachings. [passage omitted]

Those displaying state arrogance, that is to say those who hold government power, receive their unlimited power from the state. Those who have financial power use their economic influence. Finally, those who are educated use their powers of knowledge of science and the arts, of technology, of literature, their writings, and other resources. These are the three heads of arrogance, the three forms of arrogance. They do whatever the please by wielding their power against any righteous party that does not support their personal interest. This is a principal (?characteristic) of humanity. [passage omitted]

The ruling stratum is always vulnerable to the danger of being arrogant, as is the wealthy stratum and those who are knowledgeable in science, technology, literature, writing, and so forth. They all live in these vulnerable conditions and misuse their divine blessings. We must (?cleanse) our society by informing our people that this is the worst possible situation. We suddenly realize that our society is being ruled by people from poor, rural, barefoot backgrounds who have changed and now believe they have full power to do as they wish. Even those ulema with God-given talents in science misuse their gifts, be they [word indistinct] engineers, writers, artists, or others, such as men of literature or oratorical power, when they destroy anyone who disagrees with their (?views). [passage omitted]

Our society is based on Islam, sacrifices, and selflessness, and its struggles against arrogance and (?need). If this struggle is maintained we will deserve victory. God is now granting us such victories day by day. If we forget our goal, and lose our path and the invigorating source of the struggle for Islam and the Koran and instead fight each other for power, influence, or for the right to say what is what or who should do what, we will eliminate each other from the scene.

What difference does it make to God if we strike each other or the United States? The divine (?order) has not promised that Iran, for example, should be victorious even though it is corrupt. [passage omitted] This is the reason why we were advised to deliver sermons on piety during the Friday prayers. [passage omitted] The Friday prayers is a teaching session for the people. As such, it is empowered to recommend piety, meaning that the strugglers on the path of justice, after gaining some good fortune, should not do to each other what they fought against. [passage omitted]

In the first seconds after reaching the peak and easing this advance, scuffles begin to determine the heritage of the martyrs and selfless, and the danger of a fall, if only in goals, looms. If we lose sight of our goals, the spirit of

the revolution, in spite of our ruling and power or boasting of supremacy in a region, we will not find what we have been searching for. [passage omitted]

Second Sermon on Summit, War

LD0306183388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 3 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Koranic passage omitted] Issues about current events and anniversaries which usually arise in sermons include several things today, to all of which I will briefly refer. Before mentioning them, I stress piety once again and the observance of God's teachings, which are our divine duties. If they are not observed, these discussions will not lead to anything and all efforts will be wasted. God willing, our nation will maintain the precious jewel of piety.

The first issue is the occasion of 15 Khordad [5 June 1963], a very honorable and great occasion for us. You must never forget that great day in our history. The 15 Khordad was a movement that revealed many of the hidden realities of the society both for our enemies and for ourselves. Perhaps no one expected that, considering the extent of our struggle up to that time, that suddenly our great Islamic nation would so thoroughly come to the fore throughout Iran. It surprised our enemies because they thought they had crushed the clergy and, in their view, had blackened the name of the clergy and isolated it to the point where they thought the clergy did not have much of a base among the people. [passage omitted] The 15 Khordad showed that people are willing to endure bullets for the sake of their religious leader [marja'-e taqlid], who was imprisoned; they were willing to fall under tanks. [crowd chants] [passage omitted]

There was an apparent retreat in our movement when the imam was captured and then exiled. However, the struggle deepened because it was borne on the shoulders of religious people, and the environment of the struggle was a religious environment. That constituted the greatest wealth of the people, and has always been the center of the battle for justice. There were many, a great number of pure and combative clergymen, who were prepared to lose everything for the sake of God, for the revolution, and for the leadership of the imam. They worked closely with the people and made them vigilant.

From the year 1342 [1963] until 1357 [1979] when we overthrew the monarchical Pahlavi regime, substantial work had been done. Suddenly, in the year 1356 [1978] on the first suitable occasion, a great new explosion took place. You saw how the most powerful regime in the region that was armed to the teeth; that had all the world's police facilities at its disposal; that was experienced in suppression; that was backed by the the forces of propaganda, police, and suppression, was brought down by the people. We must consider 15 Khordad to be the beginning, and we must continue along that great path in the same way. We must remain vigilant and must not forget the primary axes of this revolution.

During the past 150 years we have seen that any non-Islamic movement has fallen or is in the process of dying, and that only the Islamic movement has remained. Moreover, when movements have been purely Islamic, they have been victorious—the tobacco incident, the constitutional movement. The half-baked victory of the movement to nationalize oil occurred under in the shadow of Ayatollah Kashani. Again it became religious, took on a religious tone. When they removed Kashani, they were again defeated and were soon forgotten.

This movement was victorious because it had a religious leader, a leader who people were dutybound to obey; he was incorruptible. Anything he says is a rightful command. The people are fighting on the basis of rightful commands. They accept martyrdom on that basis. They spend money on that basis because it is clear to them that it is right, obvious. Well, that must remain. If things are any other way, our revolution will have no foundation.

Another issue is that of the unity of the clergy at that time. Of course, even then we had a number of opposing clergy. There were those who condemned us for our struggle. They would say: Who will answer for this blood? This is just the sort of thing that people now say about the war. At that time they said those things to us; some were like that. However, the bulk of the clergy, the large group of the imam's students, those who were prepared to use their knowledge for society, and those who did not want to use their knowledge for personal ends, are all in the battlefield. We must remain united with that vanguard group of clergy who taught revolution to the people in the shadow of the imam and who guided the people. The people, too, must fight with those same Islamic standards. The axis is the religious leader and the leader of the revolution. The person we accept, who the absolute majority of the society accepts as the leader of the revolution, will show us the path and we will follow him. As long as that path is safe, the road to victory is before us. [crowd chants] [passage omitted]

A topical international issue these days is the U.S. President's trip to the Soviet Union. In those 4 days the whole world was subjected to their propoganda. If this trip actually results in reducing any tension in the world, or if a step is taken toward nuclear disarmament, or if regional focal points of tension are reduced, then we would consider it an auspicious trip. Unfortunately, our experience, analysis, and assessment contravenes this point of view. Up to now we have not seen any good results from such trips and socializing between the roughnecks of the world.

If the mass media are giving some hope to people, they may have special motives. The most important issue is nuclear disarmament, the destruction of nuclear missiles. I do not know, for instance, if they have only

destroyed medium-range missiles, this problem will be solved. [sentence as heard] It is good if it is solved but I think it is very unlikely they will so easily eliminate the missiles that they have spent money to build thinking they would need them some day, that is, if indeed they do eliminate them. [sentence as heard] If they are telling the truth, then the whole machinery for building nuclear bombs should be destroyed. Is it not worse if you eliminate the medium-range missiles and not the long-range ones? Was there anything in the discussions which touched on, for example, the subject of reducing by 20, 10, 50 percent of the forces that are working in the field of producing nuclear bombs? There was not. Well, you want to replace the things that you have eliminated with more dangerous things. Everyone knows that you are improving the quality of nuclear weapons. Well, if this is the case then say it. What is this hypocrisy? Why do you deceive people so much? Why do you do this just to win votes in elections? Why do you behave like this toward the people? Tell people the truth. When you met, there were many regional problems facing people. Both of you are great nuisances to the world. [crowd chants]

What have you done for the existing centers of sedition in the world, where either of you is involved? Have you given a thought to South Africa, where so many oppressed blacks are suffering under the tyranny of a group of whites supported by the West? Have you given a thought to the destitution in Cambodia, where so many unfortunate people are being massacred by the forces backed by the Soviet Union and others? Did you think of helping the people of Afghanistan, 5 to 6 million of whom have fled their homes while their country was turned into an arena of war and bloodshed, and where both of you are involved? Did you give a thought to all of the wronged Palestinians, whose tortures you filmed and distributed? We saw in those films in which the Zionist hangmen broke their arms and backs in front of the reporters' eyes and the cameras, and we saw them buried alive by bulldozers. Did you think of helping the oppressed people of southern Lebanon, where Israel goes in and forcefully captures them and imprisons them in another country? Did you make any decision on the fate of the destructive wars, which you yourselves start all over the world in order to secure your own interests? Did you discuss the fate of the Nicaraguan people, whose revolution is threatened by the United States? Did you make any decision regarding the Persian Gulf region, which you have turned into an exercise area for your intruding fleets? Did you give a thought to the war you kindled between Iran and Iraq and to which you are adding fuel today? What thought about the world did you have?

Your discussions might deceive gullible and ignorant people. Mr Reagan went there to chant constant rhetoric about human rights. This is good propaganda. It might be a good propaganda ploy for inside the United States too, but one cannot find anyone stupid enough to believe such rhetoric. Who would believe that Mr Reagan is sympathetic toward human rights, while he himself is creating such a situation in Palestine? They are trying to free several Jews from the Soviet Union to go to Israel and fight against these helpless Muslims. This was the important practical outcome they achieved, and 28 Jewish families were permitted to emigrate from Russia to Israel. This is the result of Mr Reagan's human rights talk. Not one of those cowardly reporters asked Mr Reagan if he is not responsible for the 3 to 4 million oppressed Palestinians who have lost their homes and are now living in refugee tents. Do they have any rights? The United States then would have had to dais either "Israel has nothing to do with us," in which case the world would have laughed at him, or "I lied."

No one there asked Mr Gorbachev whether the Afghans have any rights, 5 million of whom are scattered all over the world and are living in misery as your planes destroy their homes. It is obvious they tell lies and sit around deceiving nations; they are hypocrites. I am amazed at the Soviet Union's weak position. It seems strange to me and I raised the issue with the Soviet ambassador during a meeting; he had no answer for me. I asked him: When Mr Reagan comes to your country, or when you went there for a visit, you raise the slogan of human rights. Can you not think of a question to ask the United States? Why not ask them whether human rights should be respected in South Africa, Palestine, Lebanon, and Nicaragua, too? Will they be able to answer? Why do you not ask the United States: Why do you support all the unpopular dictators all over the world? The United States should answer this. Mr Reagan, who invites several dissidents in Moscow to sit and talk and boast about human rights, should answer us.

Are there human rights in Saudi Arabia? Do the people have voting rights in Saudi Arabia? Is there democracy in Saudi Arabia? Do the rulers of Saudi Arabia have a parliament? Are Saudi Arabian rulers democrats? The Al-Sa'ud family has dominated the majority of the people with oil money, the sword, and rifles. When you go to the Soviet Union you support democracy, the country where at least a dictatorial party exists on the surface and there is some kind of voting and a ostensible parliament, whereas in Saudi Arabia even these things do not exist. Why do you in the USSR not question them about their double standards?

Is there a democracy in South Africa, where 24 million blacks are denied voting rights and 2 million whites are in charge of everything? [passage omitted]

Our most important topic concerns the war and the recent decision that his holiness the imam adopted on the war and the Armed Forces. Now I will explain a little to expose the root of the decision.

Conditions now prevailing on the frontlines and in the regions are the advanced and more profound versions of the conditions that prevailed after the "Val-Fajr-8" operations.

After the "Val-Fajr-8" operation, the Iraqis adopted a policy they call mobile defense. They achieved mobility in several areas. They managed to retake points from us—they recaptured Mehran, they recaptured (Shakh-e Shemiran), they took some territory from us in Faqqeh, and they advanced in other border areas. Then our counteroffensive began. We retook parts of what we had relinquished. This led to the "Karbala-5" operation and the capture of the Shalamcheh region. These conditions prevailed until the end of the last year [ending 21 March].

At that time Iraq lacked the degree of preparedness it now has. First of all, we suffered great blows during the "Val-Fajr-8" operation and did not command sufficient forces. Now we have embarked on a larger operation. Now we possess some forces that were freed. [sentence as heard] During the past year we took large slices of territory and, indeed, a great number of prisoners. We had some small operations. Then at the end of the year we had the "Val-Fajr-10" operations, which may be regarded as vast. Yet the Iraqis economized on bringing their principal forces to the field. They preserved their main forces in other places.

At present their policy of coordinating with the world is different than it was. When "Val-Fajr-8" was launched the Americans were not present in the region. At that time Saudi Arabia and Kuwait did not follow their present disgraceful policy of confronting the Islamic Republic and blatantly supporting Iraq.

Moreover, the Iraqis learned their lesson from the defeat of their mobile defense strategy. They somehow put to good use the lessons they had thus learned. As a result, they began to initiate a move like the one of 3 years ago. The difference is that 3 years ago they were defeated. This time they launched their move with suitable forces.

Under these conditions, we must prepare ourselves to confront the existing situation. Those conditions of the past changed in our favor in line with our strength. Now we need to take our task somewhat more seriously. To do so we must embark on two or three tasks; and these we have begun. One is the fact that our Armed Forces have vast capabilities which, due to the conditions that existed in our Armed Forces after the revolution, are now being utilized properly.

We have a great deal more forces than Iraq. Until very recently our national service duration was 2 years. It was only recently that we extended it by 4 months. Now, if all those who are of conscription age are drafted into national service, our forces would be vast. Every year we can enlist more than 500,000 to 600,000 conscripts, and if they are kept armed for 2 and 1/2 years it means we have about 1.5 million conscripts. We have that many soldiers. The manpower in the Armed Forces and the IRGC comprises a great force. The Gendarmerie, meanwhile, has ample manpower. They are deployed in the war in a scattered fashion. These forces must be reorganized so that first, conscription is taken very seriously and, second, those forces at hand are properly deployed at the frontline.

At present some of our forces are employed at parallel headquarters, parallel ministries, in positions that are not directly involved in the war or in the operations behind the scene, at parallel training centers, and other parallel positions.

Such a state of affairs was natural. You must not question why this happened. The reason is that we had an army, in the form of regular armed forces. After the revolution, when the war began, a need arose for something else, and for that reason the IRGC was set up. Their culture, their training, and many other aspects of their character were not compatible with the regular army. They were not compatible, so they were unable to work in unison, in a single unit. In many ways it is difficult to employ them all in a single unit. But, it is not impossible. What we need is a series of initiatives.

These two forces grew in two different directions. As a result, problems arose, and the need to align them was obvious. However, we used to procrastinate; we used to say that somehow, an opportune time will arise to align these organizations, to be able to utilize them in unison, in the form of a cohesive armed force. Now, under new conditions, this may be resolved; that is, prior to utilizing government resources or civilians, we must take this step.

Moreover, civilian resources are not so readily available as they usually are in wartime. Perhaps there was no need to utilize such resources to a great extent but now we do feel the need.

There are many nonmilitary industries now which do not utilize their full capacity because of a lack of materials. They operate below capacity. However, the war can do two things: It will provide them with work so that their workers will not remain unemployed, and they will also be at the disposal of the war. Some of the nonmilitary manufacturing plants producing goods not so essential for the war can be closed down and reoriented in the interests of the war. We have not done this before, but the Iraqis have done so for years.

Take Germany as an example. They would suddenly adopt strange decisions. For instance, when they wanted to build missiles, they would prepare fuel from potatoes. They [not further identified] came and Hitler gave a quota. He said that so many missiles must be built. He was told that using potatoes for fuel would create food shortages. However, military decisions could not be subjugated to such problems. [passage omitted] In war, particularly in a war like ours in which the opponents are the United States and the nasty superpowers, a war in which arrogance, reaction, and their stooges have joined ranks, some operations must initially be carried out.

Then there was an administrative problem. His holiness the imam naturally does not have the opportunity as commander in chief to personally attend to all these problems of the Army, the IRGC, the Gendarmerie, and others. We must not expect such a thing from his holiness.

There was a division of labor. Each person was performing part of an overall task. Because full coordination was lacking, part of our forces was being wasted. Some of our resources were being used on parallel levels. Some of our training centers were under-utilized while others were overflowing with loads of work. We had many difficulties then.

These problems were analyzed. Then we decided to reach a point where the affairs of the Armed Forces could be centralized. That was the first priority. Then if that was found to be insufficient, we would utilize nonmilitary resources. The three forces have now been assigned in the imam's decree [farman] to achieve it and be the backing for this task. [sentence as heard] The wartime military tribunals have been designated to be on guard not to allow anybody to deviate from the contents of the decree. They must all cooperate to ensure that these instructions are properly implemented.

This was a task which would have been accomplished in time. Now is the suitable time. Because of the present exigencies, today has been designated the right time. As for why I should be the one to carry out this task, I believer there are many others who are more qualified in this country than I am. Well, there were specific reasons why I was chosen.

Just because his excellency the president has written in his letter that he [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] is qualified does not mean that I have more qualifications than others. It does not mean that I am more qualified than he is. He is familiar with both military affairs and with the Armed Forces and the IRGC. He is also a man of action in war. You must remember those early days of the war when he used to put on a military uniform. He was with Martyr Chamran [Mostafa Chamran, defense minister in 1980] in Ahvaz when we weathered the first storm of the war.

However, to some extent my occupation is suitable for this task. As I am [the speaker] in the Majlis, I have two deputies. If I am absent, the Majlis can continue on. Whether I am present in the Majlis or not it does not make much difference.

Moreover, when you visit the battlefields you may encounter danger. We cannot risk the life of our president, who is the No 2 personality in the country, to send him to those places. There are more basic tasks that must be tackled at the level of head of state, and he has responsibility for such tasks. The government has, meanwhile, sufficient problems of its own. The judiciary has a great deal of work to do. Of all these, the one who could best afford time was myself. As in the past I had had responsibilities for these affairs and I am familiar with the problems of the war and the Armed Forces, the responsibility was assigned to me. I have proudly accepted this responsibility, a duty all of us must shoulder. God willing, we must be able to bring about a change in conditions at the battlefront. [crowd chants approval]

The despondency of world arrogance is due to your presence. One person could not be so effective. It is the nation that can solve everything. That is what I am saying to you now. A part of the imam's decree concerns the organization, reformation of the Armed Forces and the IRGC and their centralization. God willing, we will accomplish this with the cooperation of the Armed Forces, all of whom are extremely eager in this matter. Another part concerns you people, and asks you to take note of the situation. As I said, Iraq is now repeating the dynamic defense issue, but with more readiness and support from the arrogant powers. The two bitter incidents that occurred may, God forbid, prevent us from attaining full readiness to change the situation. Certain things, bitter or sweet, near or far, may happen to us. However, we have made our decision. The decision stems from the imam's decree and the people's wishes. We are determined to go forth, at any price and at any length, to attain our rights from the Ba'thist, 'Aflaqi Party of Iraq. [crowd chants]

Thank you. Nothing and no one in the world can prevent us from carrying out our will. This decision is serious and irrevocable. To prove our point to the world, and not be accused of warmongering, we have given the world a certain option. That certain option does not mean compromise, surrender, or giving up certain rights. We have told them: If you are sincere and wish to bring peace to the region, you could declare Saddam the aggressor in the Security Council. Then, a court or instrument of judgment could determine the punishment of an aggressor who committed many crimes against both nations. This is the option we gave them.

If the UN, the Security Council, and the world are sincere in dealing with this issue, it will be done. But we do not trust them, we do not belive them History has proven this, our own experience proves it. The evil intentions of the world powers tell us that they are not sincere. We have left that door open, and have given our Foreign Ministry permission to pursue that course of action. However, because of this, if we for one moment let down our guard in the war, God forbid, our initiative and leverage will be taken away from us. Therefore, we must be present on the fronts. The Armed Forces must be ready and assume that no one in the world thinks of our rights, that we must attain our rights by force. The people must assume that no one will lift a finger to help them in this world, which is governed by evil powers that have unleashed rabid dogs and frozen the stones [reference to Iranian poetic verse].

To honor the blood of the martyrs, to respect the aims of our dear martyrs, so that all this self-sacrifice is not

fruitless, the people must be present on the scene more than ever, as dictated by present circumstances. [passage omitted]

I say to the world: This is our last word. A number of bitter or untoward incidents, missile attacks on some towns, or the recapture of a few kilometers of land, can not weaken the resolve of this nation not to forego its certain rights. Do not pursue this course of action. If you are sincere, act accordingly. If not, be prepared for us to attain our rights and prove to the world that you are lying. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Congratulated on Appointment
LD0406155488 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 4, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni's acting representative to the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) cabled a message to the founder of the Islamic Republic Saturday, congratulating him on his appointment of Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the acting commander-in-chief of all armed forces.

In parts of his message, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-Araqi announced the Armed Forces's preparedness to subdue the criminal Iraqi Ba'thist aggressors.

On Thursday, the leader of the Islamic Revolution appointed Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the acting commander-in-chief of all armed forces upon a proposal of President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-Araqi also cabled a separate message to the newly-appointed acting commander in chief of all Armed Forces today, felicitating him on his new post.

In related news, Hashemi-Rafsanjani received congratulatory messages today from Defence Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali and the military unit of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI).

IRGC Leader on 'Fath' Exercise, Appointment
NC0306193188 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Interview with IRGC Commander Mohsen Reza'i by an unidentified Bushehr television correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] We ask our dear brother Mr Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the IRGC, to discuss the readiness of the Islamic Republic's armed forces to confront the overtures of the criminal United States in the Persian Gulf.

[Reza'i] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. Today the dear brothers in the Corps and the Armed Forces are better prepared than they were months ago, even days ago. The training and exercises that they have gone through these past days, the experience gained, and the realization of their potentials have increased the defense capability of the fighters of Islam. I am speaking mostly about the IRGC brothers, who are preparing themselves for an important exercise in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman which will be known as the 'Fath' maneuvers. God willing, these exercises will take place. We will announce later the date on which they will be held. The IRGC's forces and commandos will participate in these exercises to test and evaluate their fighting power, identify their weak points and correct them, and again test their strong points. With our fighters' readiness and their strong and divine impetus in the struggle against the enemy, we hope we will be able, God willing, to defend the honor and dignity of our revolution and of our people.

[Correspondent] We would like you to comment on the important decree by the imam on Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's appointment, as well as the impact of this decree on the war fronts and on the Armed Forces.

[Reza'i] We congratulate our dear leader, His Excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and we greatly thank his holiness the imam for having fulfilled one of the wishes of the brothers in the Armed Forces and in the IRGC: to reach a complete and practical unity. We also thank him for mobilizing all the country's powers in the war, a most vital issue for our country. Today the brothers in the IRGC express their readiness to carry out this decree. They will place all their potentials, forces, and experience at the disposal of the acting commander in chief. God willing, we will defend him, the representative of the imam, on all fronts as best we can until the last drop of blood. We will carry out his orders in detail throughout the fronts.

Bazargan Wires Khomeyni Over Colleagues' Arrest
TA0606065188 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] In the wake of the arrest of leading members of the Iranian Liberation Movement, Eng Mehdi Bazargan, leader of the movement, sent a telegram on Thursday, 2 June, from his home in Tehran to Ruhollah Khomeyni protesting the arrest of his close friends and colleagues.

In his telegram to Ruhollah Khomeyni, Eng Mehdi Bazargan, who was rumored on Wednesday to be in hiding, took responsibility for writing the open letter from the Iranian Liberation Movement and declared that his colleagues, who have been detained by agents of the Islamic regime, had no role in preparing the open letter and must be released as soon as possible.

It is worth noting that in this open letter, which detailed Khomeyni's and the Islamic regime's lies as well as Khomeyni's unfulfilled promises, Eng Mehdi Bazargan

held Khomeyni responsible for the military setbacks Iran suffered at the hands of Iraq and stressed that the Islamic Republic's actions have disgraced Iran and Islam in the world.

In his telegram to Ruhollah Khomeyni, Eng Mehdi Bazargan stated: Our only crime is that we are concerned about the danger threatening our homeland's existence and survival.

'Informed Circles' See Coup Behind Appointment
TA0606071288 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Excerpts] The rumor circulating in Tehran's informed circles is that after Ruhollah Khomeyni was compelled last week to appoint Hashemi-Rafsanjani as acting commander in chief, he gave his seal and right of signature to his son, Ahmad. Commenting on this measure, those in the know say that 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, with the collaboration of Ahmad Khomeyni and 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, actually staged a coup and pushed the sick Ruhollah Khomeyni aside. [passage omitted]

Informed people say that after this coup one should expect other important events to occur in the ruling circle.

Rafiqdust, Afshar Discuss Latest War Operations
NC0206184588 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1615 GMT 3 Jun 88

["Weekly Political Roundtable" with Mohsen Rafiqdust, IRGC minister and the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council; and 'Ali Reza Afshar, IRGC spokesman, moderated by Afshar, correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic, in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Moderator] Mr Rafiqdust, I welcome you to the political roundtable discussion. My first question is: During the past 8 years, the Iraqi forces did not carry out any operations on the fronts, or when they carried out operations they were not successful. However, in recent days we have witnessed two successful operations on the fronts. The main reasons for these advances by Iraq have not been clarified for our people up till now. If Your Excellency deems it advisable, please comment on this.

[Rafiqdust] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. Before answering your question, which is a good question, I would like to comment on today's decree by the imam appointing our dear brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani to replace the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. I would like to congratulate all the Armed Forces, the IRGC, the Army, the Gendarmerie, the police force, the committees, and all people who have taken up arms to defend this system. I would like to express the hope that, God willing, unity of command will have good results. We want to thank the great imam, even though we are not worthy of doing so. We also want to thank the president, who very wisely requested the imam to make this appointment. We pray that our dear brother, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, will be able, God willing, to be successful in this sensitive and important position at this sensitive moment, and that our nation will be rewarded by God with victory.

Yes, it is as you stated. However, your question must be corrected somewhat. In other words, during the past 8 years there were few examples of Iraq's success. If you recall, following the liberation of Al-Faw by the fighters of Islam, Iraq began a mobile defense and took Mehran. We then regained Mehran. Iraq attacked Faqqeh and various other places. However, as you said, Iraq did take two relatively good areas from our fighters. The reason behind the recent success is very clear: It is military. In other words, the enemy started planning some time ago. It gathered its forces and attacked the fighters of Islam when we did not have very many forces in the region. Our relatively low casualty rates from both these operations is proof that we did not have many forces in the region.

Of course, we consider ourselves guilty. We should, God willing, try not only to compensate for this, but to make our position in the war understood. Our fight is not over Basra, Al-Faw, Shalamcheh, and other such places. It is a war to gain justice and overthrow a corrupt system. In our attack on Al-Faw and Shalamcheh, we carried out our objective, which was to destroy the war machine. However, later on we forgot to some extent what was happening in the region. In our calculations we should not ignore the assistance the world extends to Saddam every day. God willing, we should not feel that our forces have any weakness. We should go more strongly to the fronts, compensate for recent events, and, God willing, achieve the objective set for us by the imam: the overthrow of Saddam's regime and the attainment of justice with our armed forces.

If I have not been able to answer your question fully, I will continue. We have in front of us an enemy with five characteristics: it is aggressive, it is destructive, it attacks residential areas, it uses chemical bombs; and it massacres whenever it can. Our nation has witnessed all these characteristics. Our nation sees that this enemy began the war of the cities; it uses chemical bombs; it destroys residential areas. Therefore, when we say the world should recognize Saddam as the aggressor and punish him, we are saying that we are not warmongers and that we only want our rights.

In the face of such an enemy, what can we do but fight, defend ourselves, pool our resources, and bring to the scene all those people whose hearts beat for the revolution? Shalamcheh and Al-Faw taught us the lesson that we should all go to the fronts, all of us, to confront the enemy with all the advantages that we have and it lacks. We have such a nation and such a leadership. The Iraqi nation does not support Saddam's regime. This is certain, definite. There are many strugglers who are fighting

against Saddam's regime from within our territory and on the fronts. We have a political, religious, and ideological system. All these factors, headed by the prophet-like leadership of the great imam, should be used. Instead of losing time, we should go to the fronts more quickly with all our potential. God willing, our nation will witness how our objective, Saddam's fall, overthrow, can be achieved by military force and not by anything else. God willing, our nation will witness how our objective, Saddam's fall, can be achieved by military force and not by anything else. We do not accept anything else and we do not believe in anything, only this. God willing, we will witness victories as well.

[Moderator] God willing. Mr Rafiqdust, regarding the five characteristics of our enemy that you listed, we can say that we are facing a savage enemy. In facing such an enemy, there are a series of duties related to the war that fall on the shoulders of officials, and there are a series of duties that our people should carry out. During the past few years, our people and our officials have shown their readiness to carry out their duties. As you yourself have stated, our officials should learn a lesson—and they certainly have—from the defeats in Al-Faw and Shalamcheh. God willing, they will carry out their duties. As for the duties of the people, these duties should be specified by the officials. Has a new policy been considered as far as our people are concerned?

[Rafiqdust] The war has shown that it demands more strength. As our nation heard in today's message by the imam, all potentials should be amassed. In our discussion, we will see how the presence on the fronts should increase daily and last longer. Officials must be asked to pay more attention to the war. Our officials only want to carry out the people's desires, which are the desires of the imam. The people's zeal should be given more consideration. When the people's desire to go to the fronts increases, it is our duty to increase our preparation and training, and to organize more forces so that, God willing, we can better carry out our operations on the fronts. Our people have proved so far that they have been ahead of us. We want them to increases their speed. In other words, from now on when we call for 500 battalions, then 1,000 and 1,500 battalions should come. The quantity of our forces should be different than in the past. Of course, one good point has now come with the unity in command. All the potentials of the military forces will be used, God willing, under one command. This in itself demands that more people come and pay more attention to the war so that God will grant us victory.

[Moderator] God willing. Mr Afshar, during one of our political roundtable discussions, an IRGC commander said that in order to plan operations, it is necessary for the mobilization forces to be dispatched for more than the present 3 months, to be on the fronts for a longer period, say 6 months. This topic was covered during one of these programs. We see, in fact, that some of the dispatches do not even last for 3 months. In other words, there are dispatches of students which last 45 days. In order to carry out large operations, should dispatches be increased or decreased? If the period should be increased, have you considered a plan for a 6-month dispatch?

[Afshar] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. I too would like to congratulate the honorable successor to the commander in chief and the commander of the Armed Forces in view of today's decree by the imam. I hope that the harmony and unity created among the Armed Forces, the administrative, judicial, and legislative powers, and in the entire system vis-a-vis the enemy will pave the way for an all-encompassing introduction of the country's potential into the war.

This decree and this new movement is definitely a strong blow to our enemies and to the superpowers, which support and strengthen Saddam. Throughout the war and the revolution we have seen that each movement or pressure by the enemy has led to a good advance by the Islamic Revolution toward conquering new positions, improving itself, and further strengthening itself. This movement too is toward the same end. It will, God willing, pave the way toward a final victory for the fighters of Islam.

As for the dispatches to the fronts, I say that the more forces we have for a longer period of time at our disposal, the more training they will receive. The increased stability in the combat organization will increase the strength of our units. As some of our forces are mobilization forces, which carry out their regular jobs in the cities but go to the fronts for short periods in the year, this system and this policy cannot be avoided. We cannot ignore the forces in the cities that are seeking martyrdom, who are eager to fight, and want to go to the fronts but cannot become permanent members of the combat organization. However, the longer the time spent at the front, the more it will benefit our organization and improve the quality of the forces. If there are mobilization forces that can serve not just for 6 months, but for 9 months, a year or more, then this will be much better for us. Of course, we do not employ forces for a period of less than 3 months. The student forces which you mentioned serve 6 months of their military service during the period of their education. There was only one extraordinary dispatch some time ago which was aimed at strengthening the fronts and defense lines. A group was sent on a 45-day dispatch. This will not be repeated. Our efforts are concentrated on increasing the length of the dispatch of the mobiliztion forces to the fronts as much as possible.

[Moderator] In this regard, when the officials call for dispatches, these selfless people seeking martyrdom to whom you referred very eagerly answer the call. But the statements calling for dispatches to the fronts concentrate on trained and reserve forces. Nothing is mentioned about new or other forces. Do you consider it necessary to mobilize new forces as well?

[Afshar] The forces that go to the fronts must have received the necessary military training. What we mean by trained and reserve forces is this: The trained forces are the forces being sent to the fronts for the first time. These are the forces that have completed training and are being sent to the fronts for the first time. The reserve forces are those forces that have been previously trained, that have gone to the fronts once or several times, and that want to go again. We will definitely not have a new type of force to send to the fronts. However, generally speaking, our programs for the forces are based on our combat needs. In other words, we judge what kind of forces our combat units need: enlisted men, IRGC, mobilization forces, or others. As far as our mobilization forces are concerned, their quotas have been set in the various provinces. The quotas for the cities and the resistance echelons are known. The phased dispatch program was announced in early winter last year. After that, the people's readiness was aimed more at insuring the organizational capability of our units regularly and throughout the year. This is a very sensitive point. The most important duty that the people presently have in front of them is, in my view, a correct and precise implementation of the phased dispatch program. The rate of our dispatches differs throughout the year. In other words, it is at its minimum during the spring. It increases slightly in the summer, rises in the fall, and reaches its maximum in the winter.

The enemy knows this and carried out its attacks in the spring. Spring is the season when there are school and university exams. It is the start of the agricultural season. People have various problems and difficulties that do not allow them to go to the fronts in sufficient numbers. The phased dispatch program was introduced to establish a system, an order. God willing, this continues. The fighters are named after one of the 14 immaculate imams, AS. Each month we have a dispatch from all over the country under the name of one of the immaculate imams. The recent extraordinary dispatch, the third dispatch of Muhammad, peace be upon him, is to take place on 5 June. This dispatch is aimed at further strengthening the front, so that with the new situation we can both strengthen the defense lines and continue, God willing, our operation programs.

[Moderator] What I conclude from what you have stated, Mr Afshar, is that the phased dispatch program has not been seriously pursued. Is my assessment correct? If this program has not been seriously pursued....

[Rafiqdust, interrupting] (?He wants to say) that this is what the people say. [laughter]

[Rafiqdust] We were guilty. God willing, we will make up for this.

[Moderator] God willing.

[Afshar] The phased dispatch program was a new program and should have been worked on more. It should have been done in such a way that the phased dispatch program would have been more fully explained to the people. Of course, we used the people's immense presence on the scenes, which was coordinated by the officials in the provinces. In other words, we gave the people cards and told them to apply at a later date. In the short time that we had we did not have the capacity to arrange the immense population that had come to the scenes in a phased dispatch. We had to have time to ask about their situations, when they could go the fronts, and when we needed them. We postponed this. However, later on these programs were not coordinated as much as possible with the propaganda programs and explanations to the people. It should have been done in such a way that people would all be asking each other when their turn would come, and when they would be applying to the resistance units of the mobilizations forces and to the IRGC centers. This way, our units would never be lacking forces at any time or juncture. We would not lack forces at one point or need to turn away extra forces at another time. Turning people away has a negative psychological impact.

[Moderator] Mr Rafiqdust, it is said that the Iraqi regime has deployed large forces on some of the fronts and is using its propaganda means to make claims and threats against Iran. My question is: How correct are these reports? If they are correct, do we have a plan to confront these acts and these great forces that have been deployed?

[Rafiqdust] About a year or two ago, right after Al-Faw was liberated by the fighters of Islam, the Iraqi regime started thinking about forming an attack force. It worked on this for about 2 years. We have full information as to where Iraq has deployed forces. We have been instructed by the war command, God willing, not to allow past incidents to be repeated. Our forces, the IRGC command, are fully deployed on the fronts. They have, God willing, strengthened the lines. We hope that something like this will not be repeated. But, if it does happen, God forbid, it should not result in weakness. War has its expansions and contractions, battles, attacks and retreats. The main thing is the objective and the outcome of the war and the determination for a system for a military victory. Nothing has harmed or will harm this determination. While strengthening our defense lines, we hope to start our attacks soon. The enemy is extremely weak in the face of our attacks. The best defense is to attack. We should decide and, God willing, begin this strategy soon. God willing, it will be done.

[Moderator] Mr Afshar, I would like to pose the same question I asked Mr Rafiqdust earlier in this program to you, but in another form. Various assessments have been made concerning the Iran-Iraq war and Iraq's recent attacks which produced some successes. I asked Mr Rafiqdust about this and he spoke about the situation. Some people believe that Iraq utilized all its forces and

resources in these attacks, while we did not respond with our maximum capability. They believe that had we made maximum use of our capability, we would have triumphed over the enemy. What is your opinion of this assessment, and what are your own personal thoughts regarding this matter?

[Afshar] As you have stated, there are two sides to this issue. On one side is Iraq, which is said to have utilized all its capabilities in the war. Of course, it is more correct for us to say that in addition to its own resources, Iraq also employed those of the superpowers. The enemy has been able to multiply its combat ability during the war thanks to the vast economic support it receives from the world and from the superpowers. In other words, this outside support helps resolve the economic problems of its society so that Iraq can then use the bayonet to force its civil servants, its police force, or anyone it chooses to go to the fronts. We have comprehensive reports indicating that the region's reactionaries are forcefully sending their people to Iraq in order to undertake the administration of the country's current affairs so that Iraq can better do what it wants to do. These matters form one side of the issue. The other side of this issue is the threat of death felt by Saddam, the threat of destruction. Anyone who is in such a situation enters the arena with all his strength to defend his life and to insure its continuation. We too should have felt this threat in the past, and we should act in such a manner now. In other words, we should respond to this threat in the same way that Saddam does. He fights for his existence with all his might. Yet we should fight not only for our country and for our revolution, but for Islam as well. We should understand that if we hesitate the least bit, then the imam's warning of a future of bondage and such will become serious threats. We should understand that if we are in the least bit careless then, God forbid, we may inflict very heavy damages on ourselves, with the impact extending beyond our country and system and harming the world of Islam as well.

As for using our country's full potentials in the war, there are many things to be said which we cannot discuss within this short amount of time. Of course, both the nation and the government organs have deployed all their capabilities and forces in the war. However, the truth of the matter is that we have some natural limitations, and any assessments should not be made without bearing these in mind. I am referring to limitations such as the economic problems. We all know that the world has imposed an economic siege on us and, with the support of the United States, our economic centers are threatened. Not only are they not helping... [Afshar changes thought] This problem exists. There are other problems created by counterrevolution or by worldwide propaganda, which is controlled and directed against us by the Zionists. But again, we think that we can utilize the country's potentials and strengths in the war. We are superior to Iraq, both in the size of our population, and our industrial potentials and economic resources; that is, if Iraq does not receive any outside assistance. However, there are still hopes for correct programming, particularly with the harmony that will be created, God willing, by the imam's decree.

For example, we think that if we involve the country's industries more in the war and produce our own arms, we will be gaining two things. We will be achieving self-sufficiency in the war and at the same time economizing in the country's budget, which will free us from having to build things or to purchase installations and machinery. Also, some of the country's industries will be operated with the war budget. As a result, the remainder of our industries will be operated in a better way. These are the issues that exist in the industrial and other sectors. God willing, the readiness to achieve this already exists. Once harmony is achieved, then our programs will definitely progress more strongly and we will, God willing, have more success.

[Moderator] Mr Rafiqdust, one of the problems our officials emphasized was their intention to initiate activities on the fronts through a series of consecutive operations that will not allow the enemy to gain any advantage. Meanwhile, we have witnessed the various phases of operations such as the "Val-Fajr," "Karbala'," "Nasr," "Fath," "Zafar," and so on. My question to your excellency is, are these the operations to which the officials were referring, the series of big operations, or do they have in mind other operations?

[Rafiqdust] The emphasis of the officials was on the continuation of the operations, irrespective of their magnitude. In 1366 [year ending 20 March 1988] we conducted about 12 regular operations which, as you said, were known as the "Nasr," "Bayt ol-Moqaddas" and "Val-Fajr" operations. In addition, 15 operations were also carried out by the Ramadan Headquarters—the "Zafar" and "Fath" operations—during which we took more than 11,000 enemy captives, killed many tens of thousands of enemy soldiers, and wounded a far greater number. We also liberated about 2000 square kms of Iraqi territory. I am trying to cite these figures from memory. With God's assistance, I hope to be able to cite the figures more accurately. More than 2,000-3,000 kms have been liberated. During just the "Val-Fajr-10" operations, five Iraqi cities along with nearly 1,700 square kms were liberated. Indeed, the total extent of the territory liberated is greater than this, but I do not remember the exact extent at this point. The emphasis, however, remains on the continuation of the operations. In other words, we are saying that we want to maintain consecutive attacks on the enemy. Of course, with the new military system and on the basis of the program put forth by the imam—which will, God willing, yield progress and prevent repetitiveness, and thus grant us more strength—we will use any amount of force placed at our disposal to insure the continuation of the operations. We wish to re-emphasize that our program is to inflict continuous attacks on the enemy so that we can, first and foremost, deter it from attacking us and,

second, to achieve our objective of overthrowing the corrupt regime and destroying its war machinery, God willing. We emphasize once more that with the presence of the people, God willing, we will again carry out a consecutive series of attacks this year.

[Moderator] Thank you very much. Mr Afshar, concerning the valiant fighters of Islam who are sent to the fronts, it is the duty of those behind the fronts and of the officials to meet the needs of the families of these dear devotees. In connection with this, some time ago we witnessed the introduction of a program known as the Assistance to the Combatants plan, which help meet the needs of our fighters' families. However, we see that in practice this plan has not been satisfactorily and effectively carried out. Have there been any difficulties as far as its implementation was concerned, or have there been other problems?

[Afshar] We believe in seeing to the needs of the fighters' families and, basically, overcoming the problems of the fighters—as the difficulties faced by their families are a part of the range of problems that the fighters face in connection with going to the fronts to defend Islam and their Islamic homeland—from two perspectives. One is that in effect the dispatch of forces to the fronts is contingent on solving existing problems. In other words, if we do not deal with employment, family, and other problems, then our people definitely cannot have a good presence on the fronts. The second is that, as stated by the imam in the charter of the revolution, the system should value those who go to the fronts and who give martyrs. The main weight of the revolution rests on their shoulders. Therefore, allowance should be made for privileges for them—of course not in slogans, but in deeds, regulations, and laws. This is a general duty. The duty of the Assistance to the Combatants plan is, first and foremost, the duty of all the administrative organs and of our programs. However, in every context it is the people's participation that solves all our problems. Therefore, we thought that since the people themselves are interested in providing assistance and consider it an Islamic duty—in the history of Islam there are cases when families of fighters who went to war were helped by those who stayed behind—then this contribution on the part of the people should be organized so that it can be carried out more effectively. As a result, we put forward the Assistance to the Combatants plan which had good publicity in the beginning. Of course, it may have given rise to certain expectations in some areas which were beyond the limits of the people and of the system, and we should act to ensure that too much is not expected. Programs should be compiled bearing in mind the capabilities of the people and the country. Even though there is no publicity now, nevertheless the plan is still being implemented and the IRGC cooperative is extending assistance to fighters' families throughout the country, as best it can.

[Moderator] However, so far we have unfortunately not seen our people fully agree that this plan has been successful.

[Rafiqdust] I would like to state that this plan was taken seriously in some cities and the fighters have no problems. In other words, when a fighter goes to the front his family is assisted if it needs a doctor, dentist, obstetrician, school, or help with education. This plan has been successful in some places. We should, God willing, tell you this so that it can be publicized on the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and so that the people can see where the plan is being implemented successfully. This will lead to a favorable growth in zeal to go to the fronts. God willing, we will do this. This is a very good idea. In the history of Islam, this plan was a plan that helped defend Islam. God willing, we should do this.

[Moderator] During one of our programs, an official of the IRGC Ministry stated that the IRGC's successful manufacture of the TOW missile can pave the way for newer and more complicated projects to be undertaken and pursued by the IRGC. It appears that in view of this, after the TOW program, the IRGC must have begun to implement other projects. Am I correct? If so, what are they working on now?

[Afshar] Of course, if Mr Rafiqdust has more to say on this, then he should. But what I want to say is that we should publicize something when it has become a reality, or not say anything at all if it is a matter of security. In the various fields of military arms we are cooperating with the country's universities and technical centers which have a very high standard. Industrially speaking, we are among those countries that were dependent on others in terms of investments. In other words, our industrial and scientific system was dependent and followed the general movement in the world which was under U.S. control. However, we have separated ourselves from the United States and have taken the initiative to overcome our dependence and to continue on our path independently, in the Armed Forces, in the IRGC, and in our aircraft industry, where we have witnessed great initiatives. In view of this we can only announce to the people that we are progressing rapidly in the various areas of military industry and we have, thank God, achieved successes as well. Please do not ask me to comment on specific cases.

[Rafiqdust] I would like to speak about this.

[Moderator] Please continue.

[Rafiqdust] Since we started to think about self-sufficiency and to work toward this goal, we can now proudly declare that our war with Iraq does not depend on materials from abroad. In other words, the mortars, artillery, the Katyushas and mini-Katyushas, and whatever else is needed by the front in terms of arms and materiel, are are manufactured by us on an extremely favorable basis, both in quantity and in quality. It would have been impossible for us to purchase this quantity of material from abroad in our present economic situation.

We have initiated the same self-sufficiency program in the rest of our industries as far as all our defense needs are concerned. The IRGC has started this program in various parts of the country. Now, with the imam's decree, all these programs will become one, thank God; this is extremely good news for those of us who are interested in the military (?plans). We have started activities in all the fields—air, sea, missiles, radars, various defenses, and everything else necessary to defend the future and the present of the system. I would like to state that we did not see any door, as far as science is concerned, in front of us. As stated by Mr Afshar, now that we are speaking here, work is being conducted on five types of surface-to-surface missiles. Many of them have passed the initial trial stage and are now being manufactured. However, it is better their sounds be heard in Baghdad if, God forbid, the enemy resumes its war of cities. Let us not talk about it here, but learn to speak about them afterwards, for those in Baghdad will be certain that we have achieved good successes in this area.

We have encountered no scientific or technical problems. We have extremely proficient experts. A few days ago, a group of doctors who teach at the university came to our office and proposed to undertake and complete one of our projects. We gave them one of the projects, along with the research which had been completed so far, so that they could start studying ways to manufacture it. They have started working on it, and are helping us to push forward the project's production time a few months.

Whatever we use on the battlefronts or whatever we see the world has, we gain access to a sample and then make a copy. Copying is more difficult than inventing. However, since our objective is specific, we operate in this manner. This method is advancing rapidly. God willing, in the near future we will show the people, through the "Voice and Vision" program, some of the products we are now mass producing for our own use.

[Moderator] Mr Rafiqdust, as your excellency pointed out, we have achieved good results in our defense industries. The problem, however, is that our country's scientific potentials and industrial capability are, at any rate, limited. This limitation urges us to compile programs for our country's defense industries in order to determine our defense priorities, so that we can see what areas we need to work on the most. My last question in this roundtable discussion is: Has this programming been done? Has a special strategy been adopted as far as the defense industries are concerned, and if this so, what strategy?

[Rafiqdust] From the time that we started to think about the creation of an industry in the IRGC, the objective was to concentrate the country's defense industries in one place. With the imam's decree now, thank God, this will be achieved. From the very beginning we said that we should utilize what we have in the country. Many of the factories are now working for us in parallel with their other productions, which I am not at liberty to disclose now.

Though we have material limitations, our scientific potentials are many. We have many experts whom we have not yet fully used, but we have called on all of them for assistance. The programming that has been done and the policies of the officials conveyed to us is that above all the war's immediate needs be met. We started this at a small level. The first area in which we achieved self-sufficiency was in providing grenades. We then went on to become self-sufficient with mortars, mortar-launchers, and artillery. We are now working on missiles, aircraft, radars, and so forth. For example, we are self-sufficient in telecommunications—something which I previously did not mention. We started by manufacturing field telephones. We are now manufacturing long-range and very complicated wireless equipment. The initial strategy is to run the war, and then go into advanced weaponry.

As for the system, the officials should give us a general strategy for the next 50 years that indicates the desired level of defensive achievement. As you stated yourself, we should use all the existing potentials in the country. If there is a potential that should be completed in order to be used, then we should complete it. If everyone does these things, then we will create new potentials in our country. This is the best strategy: Use our potentials, but bear in mind our shortages.

[Moderator] In your previous remarks, you yourself referred to five or six doctors and experts who came to you. I think that if the specific strategy that has been adopted were publicized in the mass media, there are many more such people who would come forward and their scientific potentials could be made greater use of than has been the case so far.

[Rafiqdust] Yes. Some countries did something similar during World War II. Our proposal is that anyone with an idea—a student or a professor writing a thesis—should try to have a thesis and a program concerning the war. Any factory manufacturing a product should study something related to the war, devise a program, and gradually start manufacturing. If we publicize this idea and accept the strategy that the entire country should acquire two personalities—a military and a political-economic personality—then we will never be in need of anything and no door will be closed to us. I support this idea, and most of the universities are in contact with us. Many students are working with us. We are proud to be using many professors. We support this idea and, God willing, this will be publicized and everyone will be called on to come and undertake this great burden created by the entire world—the East, the West, and reaction in support of Saddam—and carried by a nation on its own, depending only on God. God willing, these programs will be successful.

[Moderator] God willing, this will be a close cooperation among our research centers and our defense industries.

I thank you, Mr Rafiqdust and you, Mr Afshar, for taking part in this program. We hope to be able to have you with us in other programs too.

Dear viewers, I hope that this political roundtable has gained your attention and has been of use to you. In conclusion, I would like to bid each and everyone of you farewell, together with Mr Rafiqdust and Mr Afshar, good night.

Plane Reportedly Crashes Near Saddam's Home

LD0406085888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 4 Jun 88

[From the news headlines]

[Text] Following yesterday's attacks by fighter-bombers of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran on an economic-military center in the Salah Al-Din Province, foreign news agencies and radios reported that an Iranian-(?built) aircraft crashed in the vicinity of Saddam's residence.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,222

LD0306180288 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 3 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA—Iranian jets in three sorties bombed military-industrial centers of Sa'd township in Tikrit and enemy troop concentration sites west of Qasr-e Shirin and west of Baveisi [as received], western fronts at 01:35, 01:55 and 02:05 GMT Friday.

The 3222nd Joint Staff communique said that the jets returned safely to bases after inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

In the strait of Hormuz, a cargo ship suspected of carrying goods for Iraq was intercepted and escorted to a southern Iranian port for inspection by Iranian naval units Thursday.

The Islamic Republic Air Force also carried out its routine missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday, providing air cover for the Navy and reconnoitering 50 foreign vessels in the waterway.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields Thursday raging somewhat more heavily in Sar Dasht, Khushk and Zayd, northwestern and southern sectors, where a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and an enemy munitions dump and several bunkers and observation posts were destroyed.

Iranian artillery fire repelled two Iraqi patrol convoys in Mehran and Qasr-e Shirin yesterday, inflicting several casualties on them.

On Thursday, Iranian Gendarmerie forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops in parts of the southern and western fronts, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy.

Three Iraqi motor boats tried to approach Iranian positions near Abadan yesterday, but were repelled under the fire of Muslim combatants. Several Iraqi troops aboard the boats were killed or wounded.

Some Iraqi vehicles were damaged as a number of Iraqi motorized columns in Sar Dasht and Yebis, northwestern and southern fronts, came under heavy Iranian artillery fire Thursday.

WIH Denies Shelling Badrah

LD0406082888 Tehran IRNA in English 0818 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 4, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) here Saturday categorically denied Iraqi claims that Iran had shelled the eastern Iraqi city of Badrah and that Iraq had downed an Iranian helicopter in war fronts Friday. He said Baghdad is making claims daily for domestic propaganda purposes and for justifying its war crimes.

The WIH spokesman denied another Iraqi claim Friday that Iran had bombed residential areas of Al-O'Jeh [name as received] village in Salah al-Din Province. He said that the Iranian war planes in their mission had bombed an industrial-military complex in Salah al-Din Province and that all planes returned to bases safely.

He also warned the Baghdad regime of consequences of resumption of war of cities for which, he said, the Iraqi regime is groping for excuses.

Pakistan

President Orders Probe Into Sectarian Violence

BK0406162088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] The president has appointed a judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Usman Ali Shah, to inquire into the escalation of tension and deterioration of law and order in northern areas. The president has ordered him to submit the report of this inquiry within 3 weeks.

The president has appointed joint secretary in the Interior Affairs Division, Khalid Mahmud Ahmad, as commissioner for relief work in the northern areas. He will undertake the task of rehabilitation and assistance to the affected people. The president has ordered him to start

the relief and rehabilitation work immediately, including the payment of compensation for the loss of life and property, and to complete it as early as possible.

Meeting Held To Review Plans for Election
BK0406161488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Arrangements for holding the general election in the country were reviewed at a meeting of senior officials of the election commission and provincial election commissioners in Islamabad today. The secretary of the election commission presided over the meeting. The meeting made a detailed review of various stages of the work on preparations for the elections, requirements of manpower and materials, printing of ballot papers, forms, and booklets, preparations of polling schemes, appointment of district returning officers, returning officers, and assistant returning officers and other relevant matters. Several recommendations were made at the meeting which will be considered by the election commission. These recommendations will be considered at the meeting of the election commission, presided over by the chief electioner, Justice S.A. Nusrat, on Thursday.

Arrangements for printing ballots and other associated materials will be given final shape at a meeting of senior officials of printing corporations, the Pakistan security printing corporation, and controller of stationery and forms, which will be held in Karachi on Monday.

Leaders Comment on Dissolution of Parliament
BK0306153088 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 May 88 p 1,3

[Text] Lahore, May 29—President Ziaul Haq's announcement of dissolving the federal cabinet and the National Assembly came as a complete surprise to the people in Lahore as elsewhere. The political leaders were generally reluctant to give their immediate reaction to the said decision and were holding consultations with each other.

Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, the only prominent leader of the MRD present in Lahore told THE MUSLIM that efforts were underway to hold an emergency meeting of the alliance in Lahore to discuss the situation that has arisen out of the latest action by the President.

He said he was trying to contact the MRD convenor Mairaj Mohammad Khan for holding an emergency meeting. Official reaction of the MRD, he said, would be given only after the meeting is held.

He was, however, of the view that the latest action by President Ziaul Haq reflected the latter's designs of perpetuating himself in power.

He said that he was not much surprised by the action as indications to that effect had been coming from Gen Ziaul Haq by virtue of his comments and statements.

Sheikh Mohammad Rashid, senior vice chairman of the PPP while commenting on the dissolution of the National Assembly and the federal cabinet has described this action as fulfillment of the long standing MRD demand to call fresh elections on party basis.

In a statement he demanded from President Ziaul Haq the holding of fresh elections under the 1973 Constitution and the election rules made thereunder before 5th July 1977. He called for President Ziaul Haq to resign from the office of COAS [chief of Army staff] to ensure impartial and fair elections.

The PPP leader also demanded that the new elections be held under the supervision of those high court judges who did not take oath under the PCO [expansion unknown]. But explained that those judges should not be given the assignment of looking after the elections who were included in the bench giving Z.A.Bhutto the death sentence.

Maulana Fazalur Rahman Secretary General of the Jamiat-i Ulema-i Islam, [JI] is stated to be returning to Lahore after cutting short his current tour in Baluchistan to hold discussions with his counterparts in MRD.

The Jamiat-i Islami [JI] Amir Qazi Hussain Ahmad, commenting on the press conference of the President said that Gen Ziaul Haq had once again taken the nation to "square zero."

The JI Amir has hurriedly called the meeting in May 30, 1988 at 10.00 p.m.. The committee will discuss the latest situation. Qazi Hussain Ahmad said that the Jamiat-i Islami, before chalking out the future course of action would consult with political and religious leaders.

Referring to President Ziaul Haq's address to the joint session of parliament, he said that as he had already observed it seemed to be an address by an opposition leader. In his address President Ziaul Haq hinted at the weaknesses of the civilian government and members of the National Assembly which in fact amounted to no-confidence votes against the two institutions.

He thus made no secret, said the Nawabzada, of his designs to perpetuate himself in power at all costs. Recently, he added, Ziaul Haq had significantly remarked that things were managed with the help of Suzuki last year, but how were they to be managed now.

He said it was quite strange that the Chief Election Commissioner [CEC] recently stated that a period of one year or more would be required to complete preparations for fresh polls in the country. The CEC also indicated that the next elections would be held on party-basis allowing participation only to the registered parties.

Nawabzada Nasrullah did not subscribe to President Ziaul Haq's contention that the action had been necessitated in view of the failure of the law and order system and threats to the integrity of Pakistan. He said it is for Gen. Ziaul Haq to explain the threats that are posing to the country.

The MRD, he said, was however, committed to its basic stand that fresh elections should be held under the unamended Constitution of 1973 and election laws and rules as these stood on July 4, 1977.

Mian Khurshid Kasuri, general Secretary Tehrik-i Istaqlal, declined to comment on the President's decision regarding dissolution of the National Assembly and the federal cabinet. He said that before commmenting on this important matter we want to know more. He said, the central executive committee of his party was already scheduled to meet on June 2 and it would study the different aspects of this announcement.

Mr Kasuri said that he had also talked to his party chief on telephone.

Futher on Dissolution, Election

BK0306154088 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 May 88 p 1

[From Naimuddin]

[Text] Karachi, May 29: Leaders of political parties have expressed diverse views on the recent development which by all means has caught them unawares.

While the PPP leader Ms Benazir Bhutto expressed conditional welcome to the announcement of holding elections, the ANP [Awami National Party] leader Rasul Bakhsh Palejo questioned the very credibility of the announcements made so far.

In an informal conversation on the telephone, Ms Bhutto was candid to express her approval so far as the announcement of holding of elections was concerned. But she made it clear that as far as the PPP's participation in the proposed polls within the stipulated 90 days was concerned, the elections will have to be free, fair and impartial under the provisions of 1973 Constitution.

We will wait till the rules of the game are spelt out, she remarked.

In case the elections were held as promised in the announcement, Ms Bhutto said, it would be for the first time that the nation would go to the polls in the scorching heat in the country.

She reiterated the demands made by MRD for holding of elections under the 1973 Constitution and under the supervision of an impartial machinery.

ANP leader Rasul Bux Palejo admitted frankly, "I am unaware of the development". When informed he expressed apprehension that it could be prelude to a much bigger crisis. But then he added, "Nothing could be said now". He was candid in his strong disapproval of the announcements and committments made so far.

He said the credibility of the announcements have always been doubtful for the last so many years. He concluded, "Let us hope for the best and prepare for the worst".

The Jamiat-i Islami leader Professor Ghafur was the only leader who said the development was "most expected" as it was built in the system enforced after 1985. Adequate arrangements for such a swift action were made when a deviation was effected in 1985 to govern the affairs of the country.

Prof Ghafoor expressed the view that the government might have used growing lawlessness in Karachi as an excuse for moving in the direction spelt out in the announcement.

He was not certain about the fate of the provincial governments but commented that provincial governors have now the same powers as President has to dissolve the government.

MRD Convener and Chairman of the Quami Mahaz-i Azadi Mairaj Mohammad Khan said he had no faith in General Ziaul Haq's action or his promise of holding elections within 90 days. "The general made a similar pledge in July 1977, but the elections were finally held after seven years and that too on a nonparty basis", he added.

Mr Mairaj said Gen Ziaul Haq himself created the corruption and the law and order situation and today using the same as a pretext he had pushed the nation in an uncertain direction.

The MRD convener said he had repeatedly warned his alliance colleagues against such an eventuality in the past.

"This act of the general poses a serious danger to the Federation of Pakistan", he said.

Gen Ziaul Haq, he said, has again used the slogan of Islam to suit his own motives plunging the nation into hopeless darkness.

Shah Faridul Haq, a central leader of Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani's Jamiat-i Ulema-i Pakistan, had high words of praise for those not taking part in the last partyless polls as well as those who opposed the Eighth Amendment. "Those who supported the passage of the amendment enthusiastically, have been axed by the very tool," he added.

Sri Lanka

India To Begin Withdrawing Troops 7 Jun

BK0406080888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0802 GMT 4 Jun 88

[Text] Colombo, June 4 (AFP)—India will begin withdrawing some 52,000 troops deployed in Sri Lanka from Tuesday, a Sri Lankan military source said here Saturday.

Asked about the report, an Indian High Commission spokesman here confirmed that "some excess (Indian) troops and military hardware will be taken back very soon, probably beginning June 7 (Tuesday)."

Observers said it was the first time that a date had been mentioned for the start of a withdrawal of Indian troops stationed in Sri Lanka's north and east under a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan peace pact aimed at ending a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

Indian Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant was in Colombo Monday to discuss with Sri Lankan leaders what officials have described as a phased withdrawal of the estimated 52,000 Indian troops on the island.

The Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord was accepted by six major Tamil separatist groups but the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rejected it and launched a guerrilla war against the Indians.

New Delhi responded with a counter offensive October 10 to disarm the LTTE. Since then, more than 460 Indian troops and over 1,450 suspected Tamil rebels have died.

Mr. Pant told reporters at the end of his three-day visit to Colombo that New Delhi would soon withdraw surplus troops from Sri Lanka, but did not give a date or say how many would be taken back.

A joint statement issued by the two governments Tuesday said: "In view of the encouraging situation in the northland east, the Indian side conveyed that forces not required would return to India in the near future."

Indian General on Pullout

BK0506112888 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Jun 88

[Text] Tamil militants in Sri Lanka were feeling insecure after the disarmament operation by the Indian Peacekeeping Force here. [Indian] Southern Command Chief Lieutenant General A.K. Chatterji, who also commands the IPKF, said yesterday that they were on the run and once they [the IPKF] capture the militant leadership their resistance would collapse.

Responding to a question at a news conference in Pune as to when IPKF would be withdrawn, he said it would be done as soon as normalcy was restored. Lt Gen Chatterji said that the militants' hold in the Eastern Province was much less compared to the Northern [Province], but the IPKF had been able to restore a normal life after the capture of arms.

Listing IPKF achievements, he said it had been able to separate two warring groups in the island and restore normalcy to some extent by giving civic facilities. He added that the Jaffna Peninsula was comparatively quiet and that they were waiting for the onset of the monsoon to undertake major economic activities including the sowing operation.

'Maximum Alert' in South for Council Elections

BK0606051288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0457 GMT 6 Jun 88

[Text] Colombo, June 6 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Security Forces have been placed on maximum alert ahead of Thursday's council polls in Southern Province, a stronghold of an anti-government militant group, officials said here Monday.

Some 12,000 troops and police have been deployed in the area following intelligence reports that Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP—People's Liberation Front) militants might try to disrupt the vote, officials said.

They said there would be a heavy presence of armed troops near polling stations in a bid to prevent JVP attacks on voters and election officials.

In last week's council polls in Western and Central Provinces, three people, including a policeman, died in clashes between Security Forces and the JVP, police said.

The JVP opposes the setting up of the provincial councils which are in line with a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord aimed at ending a Tamil separatist campaign. India has deployed some 52,000 troops in the island's north and east under the accord.

The JVP and the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party have urged voters to boycott the polls.

In a bloody run-up to the elections, the JVP has been blamed for the killings of at least 20 candidates from the ruling United National Party and from a leftist alliance since the polls were announced two months ago.

In 1971, the JVP led a rebellion which was put down by the government with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.